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THURSDAY, MAY 24TH, 2012

Dorothy's praise for Maria: 'A TONIC NO DOCTOR COULD PRESCRIBE...'

by PHILIP IRWIN

LEFT: Maria Brown (left) and Dorothy Meah.

A COWBRIDGE woman has been praised as a 'good neighbour' after helping a St Athan woman to keep her spirits up during a tragic time in her life.

Now the two women, Dorothy Meah from St Athan, and Maria Brown from Cowbridge, have forged a friendship born out of adversity – as Dorothy learns to cope with her husband's tragic death.

Dorothy said: "I really wanted to tell GEM readers about a very special lady. I met her when I thought my world was falling apart.

"I lost my darling husband in January this year to cancer, after a two-year illness and extensive treatment."

Dorothy's husband Roger was diagnosed with mesothelioma just over two years ago. He was given a life expectancy of around two years and, sadly he died in January at the age of 63.

Dorothy explained: "His treatment weakened him and late last year he collapsed at home. A First Responder came to see us and, when it became obvious that he would be hospitalised in the Princess of Wales, I didn't know what to do, because Roger was the car driver in our family.

"He had been able to drive himself to Velindre during his course of treatment, but now I was going to find it really difficult to see him "

The First Responder was Byron Evans, who is also a member of the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club, and he told Dorothy that some Lions' members could help with problems such as Dorothy's.

He put her in touch with Maria Brown, and she proved a lifeline.

Dorothy said: "Maria ferried me back and forth – all without payment for petrol or her time."

Later, as Roger's condition worsened, Dorothy succeeded in having him transferred to Marie Curie in Penarth. It made no difference to Maria, who continued to take her back and forth.

Roger and Dorothy had Christmas together – and the new year – but on January 2, he passed away.

(*Continued on page 3*)

A civic family get-together

It was a proud day for Coun Nicola Thomas and her husband Gerald when she officially became Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian – and many family members came too! For an interview with the Mayor, and more photographs, turn to page 5.

Michelle will carry Olympic torch – uphill!

RIGHT: Michelle Roderick and Sharonmarie Salthouse in the Cowbridge Tenovus shop. The shop was clean out of Olympic torches, so Sharonmarie provided Michelle with a Union Flag umbrella instead!

by PHILIP IRWIN

WHEN Michelle Roderick of Cowbridge found out that she had been selected to carry the Olympic flame, it was a case of very, very good news...and a little bit of bad news.

The good news is obvious, and Michelle will hold the torch aloft at about 3.10pm this Saturday, as it makes its way through Bridgend.

***The bad news?* Michelle's bit is all uphill!**

Michelle is scheduled to run the final leg out of Bridgend town, and she will cover the last 300 metres of Bryntirion Hill.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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Call for a 'Living Wage' in Wales

I AM writing to ask your readers to support Save the Children's campaign for a Living Wage for Wales.

We launched this campaign because the young people we work with told us that they were more concerned about finding well-paid employment when they grow up, than any other issue.

These Welsh young people told us about the daily struggles they see their friends' parents encountering because of low household incomes, and spoke of their own worries about finding a decent wage to live on when they are older.

At Save the Children, we believe we can do better for our children and their families. That is why we are calling upon First Minister Carwyn Jones and the Welsh Government to lead and support a campaign to make a living wage of £7.20 the norm across Wales.

Save the Children believes Wales should turn its back on poverty pay and offer a better deal to its young people, and we want the Welsh Government to lead the way.

The campaign has raised a petition on the National Assembly website, *www.assemblywales.org*

Just search for *petitions* and then *Living Wage*.

James Pritchard,
Head of Wales Save the Children, Cardiff.

ARE WE BOUND FOR UK-USA?

AS an OAP, I was wondering if we are losing our Britishness? Recently, my wife went into a well-known shop that caters mainly for women's clothes.

The shop's tannoy announced, "*Listen up, guys,*" then told customers about discounts, etc.

Even shop girls address my wife and I as "*you guys*". We have '*wedding bands*', '*slam dunk*' and many more expressions, but worst of all, is '*high fives*'.

Even on the telly they are saying '*guys*'. What's wrong with 'men', instead of guys?

The mind boggles about what it's going to be like in 20 years' time.

Will this country become UK-USA?
W James,
Barry.

Support our local charity!

I WOULD like to remind older people living in the Vale of the local charity, Age Concern Cardiff & The Vale.

The cafe and information centre based at The Senior Health Shop, in Holton Road, Barry, has been serving the local community for 21 years.

It is now looking forward to a refurbishment, thanks to a generous grant from The Vale Council, as well as a grant from Barry Rotary Club and the fundraising events that the volunteers work so hard for.

The Senior Health Shop is open from Monday to Friday. You can have a drink and a snack at a very reasonable price in a friendly environment. You can enjoy Stitch and Bitch on a Monday morning, or an extend class on a Wednesday morning with Alana.

The shop also hosts a fortnightly welfare rights surgery on a Tuesday morning and a monthly tax advice surgery.

There is a wide range of health and topics of interest arranged.

Age Concern Cardiff and The Vale also offer good neighbour projects in Barry and Llantwit, a rights service, advocacy service, hospital discharge service, nail cutting service and advantage project.

Let's support our local independent charity!

Gay Fifield, Barry

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Readers' Letters

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'Welsh Government should give support to local economy'

I WRITE in response to Jane Hutt AM's column in a recent issue of The GEM in which she referred to the Vale as a "*vital county for economic opportunity, supported by the Welsh Government*."

Of course, I welcome the news of new jobs in St Athan; and we repeatedly pressed the Assembly Government to implement Enterprise Zones in Wales, following their introduction in England by the Westminster Coalition.

However, I am unconvinced that the Welsh Labour Government has been anywhere near supportive enough to the economic needs of the Vale.

In fact, I was appalled to discover last week that there isn't a single Government office or facility of more than five employees in the Vale of Glamorgan.

When I asked the same question this time last year, the answer was exactly the same. I guess that shows just how "vital" the Vale is, and how well supported we are by this Welsh Government.

Most surprising though, was Ms Hutt's gushing praise of the First Minister's setting up of a 'Task Force' to look at the future of Cardiff Airport.

Having spent recent months publicly criticising the airport and its owners, it is high time we saw some constructive engagement from the First Minister.

If the First Minister truly believes that "*Cardiff Airport is integral to the fabric of our national infrastructure*," then perhaps he should stop encouraging people not to use it.

Andrew RT Davies,
AM for South Wales Central and leader of the Conservative Group in the Assembly.

Award for Good Citizenship 2012

COWBRIDGE Town Council has long been aware that there are a number of people within the community, who make a substantial voluntary contribution, which enhances the quality of life of individuals and/or the community.

Although some individuals and family groups may have shown their appreciation for this quality support, the Town Council feels that there should be public recognition of such voluntary efforts. This is the 10th year for the Award for Good Citizenship to be made since its conception in 2003.

Any group or individual living within the area served by the Town Council can nominate a person(s) for the award, which takes the form of a certificate and will be presented to the recipient by the Mayor on a date and at a place to be decided upon.

Nominations are now invited for this year's award and forms are available from the Town Clerk's Office during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am-1pm) or via email enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk and the closing date for their return is Friday, June 8 (1pm).

Nomination forms should give a brief outline about the person(s) being nominated and the person(s) nominated may live outside the area, provided that the voluntary work carried out is within the area.

The council welcomes completed applications from all age groups.

A Davies,
Town Clerk,
Cowbridge.

Thank you to Baruc

TO the good people of Baruc ward, Barry, on behalf of the Labour team, I would like to thank everyone who 'kept the faith' and voted for us.

May I also thank the non-supporters who were most gracious on the doorstep.

Julie Aviet-Frassinelli,
Barry.

Teaching lesson?

I WAS surprised to read (in The GEM) about the Bridgend teacher admitting to having difficulty in being able to synchronise her children's care with their school holidays.

What with teachers' numerous basic holidays, inset days, and the odd day off on strike, perhaps now she understands how we mere mortals feel.

(Name and address supplied)

Why do we pay so much for water?

WE hear a lot today about the high price of electricity and gas, and the millions of pounds these people are making, but has anybody thought about water?

I live in a one-bed council flat. My water and sewage charges are approximately 33 per cent higher than the energy companies, so why is this, I ask myself?

Gas and electricity are both products, but water we get for free! The council may tell me about maintenance costs being high, but the energy companies also have maintenance to do.

So why am I paying all this money for something that is free? As for sewage charges, I know we have to run sewage farms, but I'm sure that is a lot cheaper than producing electricity and buying gas.

Is this another Government rip-off for the ordinary man?

Bill Lang,
Barry.

Buttrills thanked

THROUGH your columns, may I please thank those members of the Buttrills electorate who took the time to vote for me when I stood as an independent for the Barry Town Council?

Unfortunately, it is now a matter of history that I failed in my quest, but thank you for your support and faith in me. A few people asked why I did not stand for the Vale Council.

There are two reasons: I served 14 years on the Vale, when I represented the then socialist Labour Party, and it is a closed chapter.

Secondly, I have time for the town council but not the Vale, as I am carrying out extensive research for my PhD.

Christopher Short,
Barry.

'Give the small business a break'

WITH reference to the article 'supermarket garden' in The GEM on April 26, I personally think it is wrong to sell garden products near a food store which contains weed killer and other chemicals.

I have nothing against Morrisons, but I think it is wrong to push out small business people trying to make an honest living.

My wife and myself have shopped with them every week since they came to Barry and found them very helpful, but please stay with food!

Why do planners allow all these supermarkets to be built? They are killing off the local traders.

I have heard it said, "*let's go to Barry and browse around the shops*" – but in years to come, there won't be a shop to browse in, so bang go your tourists.

Holton Road, Barry has many shops that are boarded up – so please think again!.

(Name and address supplied)

Cost-cutting lesson from the Titanic

IN response to your correspondent, Mr James Tuttle, and with due respect to his qualifications, it is a recorded fact that *Titanic* was built using iron rivets known to be inferior to steel rivets which were then available.

This fact was known to the bosses of the White Star Line when commissioning the *Titanic*, and it was one of the deliberate decisions taken to cut corners to save costs. No one questions this anymore.

Indeed, scientific investigators, with at least the qualifications and experience of Mr Tuttle, from then until now have established that to be a fact.

Hence, Mr Tuttle's arguments are somewhat inaccurate and, in view of his qualifications, he appears surprisingly out of his depth.

Marc Delaney,
Barry.

'READY TO TAKE UP THE ISSUES'

I WOULD like to thank the residents of Sully, Lavernock and Cosmeston for their support and faith in electing me as one of the two new councillors to represent their ward on the Vale Council for the next five years.

Currently undergoing an induction process into the workings and processes of our local government, I will immediately be seeking clarification and action on the issues that I was elected to address on behalf of the Sully ward, as soon as the new ruling administration has been announced.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you feel that I may be able to help you.

Coun Kevin Mahoney,
Sully, Lavernock and Cosmeston

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 31)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
24 Thur	09.12	8.9	21.25	9.1
25 Fri	09.46	8.8	22.02	8.9
26 Sat	10.24	8.6	22.45	8.6
27 Sun	11.11	8.4	23.31	8.4
28 Mon	11.58	8.2		
29 Tues	00.23	8.3	13.03	8.0
30 Wed	01.31	8.3	14.14	8.1
31 Thur	02.41	8.5	15.24	8.4

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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'Not a penny more, not a penny less'

End of Olympic cruise saga for a local woman

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

A COWBRIDGE woman, whose cruise was cancelled because the ship she was due to sail on was commandeered by the Olympic Committee, has received her deposit back after paying it nine months ago.

Mrs Patricia Price, a keen traveller on cruise liners, had planned to take her daughter, Helen Saunders, son-in-law Timothy Saunders, and her 10-year-old grandson Meirion, on a trip up the Norwegian coast, including the fjords, this summer.

However, on February 20, Mrs Price heard the news that the Braemar would not be available for the cruise – because Fred Olsen Cruise Lines had agreed to let it be used as accommodation for Olympic workers.

Mrs Price paid a deposit of £419 in August last year and after a number of long-distance calls in recent weeks to the travel agent, has finally received a refund.

She said: "At last, I have been reimbursed, three months after the bombshell – not a penny more, not a penny less.

"I was disillusioned and upset with Fred Olsen Cruises, and put my feelings in a letter to the chairman, Mr Fred Olsen Jnr.

"I also wrote to Lord Coe at the House of Lords to tell him how disgusted I was, but did not receive a reply."

When The GEM first broke the story, a Fred Olsen Cruise Lines' spokeswoman explained: "Fred Olsen Cruise Lines will be supporting the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games this summer by chartering out its 929-guest cruise ship Braemar, to provide accommodation for key Games' workers for a period of 34 days, from July 12 to August 15.

"Guests whose existing bookings on Braemar have been affected have been offered an alternative cruise, together with a goodwill gesture to acknowledge the inconvenience this may cause. Guests who choose not to take up

this offer will be given a full refund."

The dates on offer for alternative cruises with Fred Olsen were not convenient for Mrs Price and her family, but she managed to book one with another company.

She added: "We have now found a cruise to Norway with P & O Cruises in August.

"I just hope that other people who were inconvenienced have managed to arrange a new holiday, too."

Remembering wordsmith Mike Meredith: a tireless supporter of good causes

MIKE MEREDITH, who has died at the age of 76, was a tireless worker for causes that benefited the community of Cowbridge and its surrounding area.

Shropshire-born Mike trained as a journalist and moved early in his career to south Wales, where he rose to become local head of public relations for the National Coal Board. He set up home in Cowbridge with his wife Leonor (Leo) in 1978.

It was his love of writing, great skill in promoting the causes he embraced, and gregarious personality that made him a widely known and much-loved figure in the town.

In the words of his son Giles, speaking at Mike's funeral last week: "He had a relentlessly cheery personality. He was always great fun at a dinner party; full of wit, humour and anecdotes.

"Dad just loved people – it was as simple and as natural as that. When we visited him it would be almost impossible to walk down the street because he would make time for everyone he met, greeting each one, always with a smile and a twinkle in his eye. The Broadshoard to the Spar shop took roughly an hour each way."

Mike had a challenging job in the coal industry in the 1970s and 1980s. He managed communications for good news and bad – including during the prolonged miners' strike of 1984-5.

Throughout this dramatic episode in Welsh industrial relations, Mike maintained a fairness and dignity that retained the respect of people on both sides of the dispute.

Within the field of public relations his name became synonymous with excellence in business communications.

After leaving the NCB, Mike took up a temporary appointment as head of publicity for the BBC in Wales. After that – unable just to put his feet up – he became a key member of organisations and campaigns that promoted the well-being of Cowbridge.

These included being a trustee of Cowbridge Charter Trust, starting the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival and supporting the restoration of the town walls, the Keep Cowbridge Special Campaign, The Physic Garden, and others.

He was chair of governors at Tynyrheol Primary School and was proud of the progress the school has made in recent years. Mike was also secretary of the Cowbridge Bears Association and worked tirelessly on its behalf.

His neighbour and friend Ray Murray said: "Mike was always ready to pitch in with something he believed in, and he could do with words what a mathematician can do with numbers. There was no-one better at managing publicity.

"He was invaluable during the early days of our founding of GLAZE Prostate Charity, Wales and when we achieved our aim to fund a Centre of Excellence for the treatment of prostate disease in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Mike arranged for a media event and I couldn't believe the tremendous amount of publicity it received.

"Mike remained a great supporter of the GLAZE charity and was recently involved in taking the charity on a national basis under the banner of Prostate Cymru to campaign to bring a robotic assisted surgical system to Wales.

"He was a true gentleman, superb company and a wonderful human being."

Mike played a leading role in the creation of Bro Radio, the community radio station serving Barry and the Vale. In addition to all his voluntary work, he will be remembered for his great sense of humour and wonderful sense of fun. Mike had a simple philosophy: "You reap what you sow. What you put into the lives of others comes back into your own."

Mike's funeral service at Holy Cross Church on May 15 was attended by hundreds of local people and former colleagues who had travelled from various parts of the UK.

He is survived by wife Leo, son Giles and daughter Sarah, five grandchildren, and his brother Roger.

The author was a former colleague and close friend of Mike Meredith.

WYNFORD EMANUEL

All uphill for Michelle and Olympic torch

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Michelle explained: "Every runner has to do 300 metres and my section is uphill, but I can run the full distance."

Her mother Eleri said: "Michelle found out a long time ago that she had been picked, but we weren't allowed to tell anyone until the official announcement.

"I have already gone to Bryntirion Hill to see where Michelle's friends and family can stand to get a good view."

Among those friends will be volunteers from the Tenovus charity shop in Cowbridge, where Michelle works on a Wednesday afternoon.

The shop manager, Sharonmarie Salthouse, told The GEM: "Everyone at the shop is thrilled for Michelle.

"She is always so cheerful and helpful, and on a Wednesday we have some young children who come in to help, and Michelle is brilliant with them."

Michelle was nominated by the Gateway Monday Club, which meets at Ramoth Church – not surprisingly on a Monday.

Once again, the nomination cited her constant good humour and helpful manner.

Eleri Roderick said; "Michelle's uniform arrived two weeks ago to make sure it fitted. I'm not letting her wear it before the day because it is white with gold trimming, and it has to stay clean."

On Saturday, Michelle has to join her fellow torch-bearers at 12.15 – almost three hours before she runs her leg.

The organisers will then get her to her starting point in time for her big moment!

WH Smith comes to Cowbridge

A SPOKESWOMAN for WH Smith confirmed to The GEM this week that the retailer was coming to Cowbridge.

Considerable work has been taking place on the High Street, in the building formerly occupied by the law firm Gaskell and Walker.

The spokeswoman confirmed that WH Smith planned to open a new branch, and said that further details would be available at a later date.

Jubilee beacon could light up Cowbridge

PLANS are said to be in hand for Cowbridge to take part in the lighting of beacons to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

The town has been given a 'lighting-up time' of 10.15pm on Monday, June 4.

The Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, said that she anticipated tthe beacon would be built on St Hilary Downs.

She said: "This would make it easier for people to walk from Cowbridge. There would be no need to cross the A48."

Coun Thomas said that the appropriate paperwork was being obtained, and that any volunteers who wanted to help with the event should contact her on 01446 772630, or the town clerk on 01446 773385.

Dorothy's friend in need

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The two are good friends and Maria still takes Dorothy shopping every week, and phones every day to make sure she is OK.

Dorothy said: "She was with me all the way, at the the funeral and when we scattered my husband's ashes at the Cardiff Blues Rugby Club ground – that was his last wish.

"She also put me in contact with the right person at the rugby club, as I was at a loss as to what to do."

For Dorothy, the sense of loss is still profound, and she knows that she will never stop missing her husband.

However, she has a friend to lean on – one with the happy knack of lightening the darkness, simply by walking in the room.

Maria told The GEM: "I don't think I could live without my voluntary work.

"It is as simple as wanting to help others, and I just feel good when I can."

To be honest, Maria is a touch embarrassed that Dorothy contacted The GEM. She has been doing charity work for years, and has never received any publicity before.

She is uncomfortable being praised for something that comes so naturally, and which probably came from her upbringing.

She said: "I remember when I was eight I had a spell in hospital, and I could always be found in the old people's ward, seeing what I could do to help."

She and Dorothy have already pencilled in a firm date for next Christmas Day – a shift working in the Salvation Army hostel in Cardiff. This is something that Dorothy has done before, but not Maria.

Dorothy concluded: "Maria is a lovely lady who runs a very busy household, has four beautiful well-mannered children, works daily and does a huge amount of charity work all over, apart from the Lions.

"I owe her so much, and I know a lot of other people do as well, and our lives are richer for having her in them.

"Maria is tonic that no doctor can prescribe. She makes people laugh every day.

"God Bless and I hope one day she gets the recognition she deserves."

Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions can be contacted on 0845 833 6763 or via the website www.llantwitmajorandcowbridgelions.org.uk

'THANK YOU'

I WOULD like to express my gratitude to the many people who helped me when I collapsed at the bus stop in Cowbridge.

My particular thanks go to a Cowbridge sixth former, Oliver Hitchins, who supported me and the staff of the bank, who provided a chair and water.

The ambulance is also to be praised for its fast arrival and for the care I was given.

Mrs Jean Davies, Cowbridge.

NFU ladies' day out!

NFU Vale Ladies recently went on a coach trip to Webb's Garden Centre at Worcester.

A whole day could easily have been allocated to this fabulous venue, but a fun day at the city was also planned. An exhausted coach load of ladies arrived at The Foresters Oaks, Penhow, on the return journey to recharge their batteries!

The ladies now adjourn for the summer and will restart in September. Any new members please contact Elizabeth on 01446 772466 for details. **JS**

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SPORTS ROUND-UP FROM COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE

Winners all in Karate, rugby, and skiing!

The boys B team

RECENTLY, Joel Hill graduated within his karate club and was awarded his black belt 1st Dan in karate.

Joel is the youngest member of his club to have ever achieved such a prestigious honour, and shows what a fine talent he is in his chosen sport.

Well done, we are all very proud of you within the PE department.

Keep up the hard work, and always keep us up to date of your achievements, as it is great to know pupils like you are doing so very well outside of school. Congratulations again!

Rugby

THE school year-10 side won the Vale Cup final to cap an outstanding season where they remain undefeated.

With so many of the squad involved in the District Squad, levels of performance have taken a positive climb throughout the year.

Following on from an outstanding season where they have scored over 350 points and conceded less than 10, the boys were drawn against Stanwell in the final.

After a very nervous start where they conceded an early try, the year 10 side fought back to lead 7-5 at half time.

Captain Nicky Griffiths has been brilliant all season and he once again led by example as Cowbridge No. 8 Joe Gaughan got sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes at the start of the second half.

With Cowbridge down to 14 players, Stanwell increased the pressure and went into the lead after another interception try.

This was the first time all season that the school side have been put under real pressure and like all good teams they responded positively.

Dan Holder crashed over for a try and then Dan Evans followed up with another to build the lead.

With 15 minutes remaining, Joe Gaughan returned to the field and made some great bursts through the Stanwell defence.

Harry Dowell Bennett also looks to have improved this season as he has finally settled at open side flanker and he made some telling defensive tackles.

After Joe Gaughan crossed the line for another try, Cowbridge built a comfortable lead.

Outside half Alex Guard was playing with an injury and improved massively in the last quarter of the game when he finally started to play to the conditions and kick the ball into opposition territory.

Cowbridge lifted the cup with an impressive 32-10 win.

The challenge will now be massive next season when this squad of players are competing for the school senior side as well as playing in the national year-11 cup competition, well done, boys!

The year-10 rugby side also recently finished runners up in the national-7s tournament at Llanelli. The school boasts an outstanding tradition at the national-7s and has won the competition on several occasions.

JOEL HILL

This year the year 10 side battled through pool of more than 60 teams from across the country to finish runners up to defending champions Strade school.

The tournament took place over two days with the school side finishing as group winners after the first day.

The group included teams from Cwm Rhymni, Porthcawl, Maes y coed and also included recent 15-aside welsh champions Maes Yr Yrfa.

Having spent several weeks preparing for this tournament the school side started brilliantly with comfortable wins over three of the opposition schools.

The big test in this group was always going to come from Maes Yr Yrfa and after an intense encounter the game finished 21-19 to Cowbridge.

With Cowbridge topping the group the boys expected to have a slightly easier group for the second days play.

However, this was not to be as the school was placed into a group with Welsh 15 aside champions Maes Yr Yrfa, Welsh 7-a-side champions strade and Cwmtawe comprehensive school from Neath.

After an outstanding first performance where the school beat a strong Cwmtawe side by 40 points they then faced Strade.

After leading for the first five minutes Cowbridge missed some crucial tackles and Strade capitalised to win by 4 tries to 1.

This left the school with a must win game against Maes Yr Yrfa.

With the scores level nearing the end of the game, Maes Yr Yrfa were camped on the Cowbridge line and building pressure.

The Cowbridge pack took a ball against the head in the scrum and wing George Griffiths ran the length of the field to secure a place in the semi final and win the game.

The school eased past Gwyr in the semi final to earn a place against Strade in the final. This would be a repeat of the 2010 final between the same two teams.

Once again Cowbridge led at half time thanks to a great solo try from George Griffiths.

However, once again missed tackles would prove costly as Strade once again claimed victory with an outstanding second half performance to win by 4 tries to 1.

Despite the defeat, this was another outstanding performance from the Cowbridge pupils who have been a pleasure to work with all season.

Well done, boys, and special thanks to all parents for your continued support and assistance. We look forward to next season.

AT FAIRWATER.

THE GIRLS B TEAM

Comprehensive ski team shine in championship

THE Cowbridge Ski Team took part in the Cardiff and Vale Ski Championships at Fairwater Ski Centre.

All the participants skied the course three times with their best time counting towards the individual and team awards.

In the girls race, Emily Hopkins (year-13) was the overall winner and the under-21 registered winner with a time of 8.63.

Sarah Williams (year-13) came second overall with a time of 8.94. Hannah Taylor (year-11) came third overall in the non registered category and came second in the under-18 girls' non registered category with a time of 9.97.

Amy Taylor (year-13) finished in a time of 9.99 and came first in the under-21 non registered category; Emily, Sarah, Amy and Hannah came first team.

In the under-16 age group, Caitlin Jones (year-9) 10.58 came second in the non-registered category with Hannah Crosby (year-8) third in 11.49. This was Hannah's first competitive race for Cowbridge so performed really well after a nervous start.

We hope Hannah will be part of the ski team for many years to come. Olivia Brown (year-10), Bethan White (year-11) and Lowri Morgan (year-10) made up the team with times of 11.58, 11.69 and 13.06. The B team came third behind second place Howells.

In the boys event, Jamie Griffiths (year-12) walked away with four golds! Jamie won the overall award, the overall non-registered category, under-21 non registered category and for being part of the winning team; Jamie's time was 8.99.

Harry Hopkins (year-8) came overall second place and winner of the under-14 registered category with a time of 9.00.

Ben Thomas (year-9) came overall third place and winner of the under-16 registered category with a time of 9.12.

Nicky Griffiths (year-10) came overall second in the non registered category and first in the under-16 non registered with a time of 9.51; Jamie, Harry, Ben and Nicky came first first team.

Ben Jones came third overall non registered and second in the under-16 non registered and second in the under-16 non registered category with a time of 9.55.

John Harvey (year-9) came third in the under-16 non registered category completing the course in 9.77.

Henry Jones (year-8) achieved 9.71 and won the under-14 non registered category. Making up the team was Gabe Newham (year-9) who achieved 9.98, the B team came second.

Freddie Harries (year-12) came first in the under-18 non registered category with a time of 10.34; Tom Owen (year-10) got a time of 10.28 and Josh Thomas (year-10) 11.43 to make up the C Team who came third. Well done to all the competitors.

The next race is on October 7, at the Welsh Nationals in Llangrannog.

Grant aims to improve the Vale's road network

by PHILIP IRWIN

A GRANT from the Welsh Government will give the Vale council the chance to boost its spending on capital projects this year by more than £2 million.

The grant, which totals £151,813, should mean that the Vale Council can borrow a total of £2.3 million.

The council will receive two more sums of money in each of the next two years, as part of the Welsh Government's Local Government Borrowing Initiative (LGBI).

The Welsh Government Finance Minister, Jane Hutt, said: "We know that local authority budgets across Wales are under pressure, which is why we have introduced the LGBI.

"We want to help councils address revenue pressures, and see them undertake new and necessary capital investment in our highways."

Describing the arrangement as an "effective collaboration", she said that an investment of this size would otherwise have been unaffordable.

She continued: "Developing innovative forms of financing, such as the LGBI, will form a key part of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP).

"We want to take every opportunity to increase capital investment, despite the severe cuts in our budget, and to ensure that we continue to support the delivery of public sector infrastructure across Wales."

Transport Minister Carl Sargeant added: "This money will help councils to improve the condition of our roads, reduce travel times and increase safety for motorists and cyclists.

"The funding will also support local economies across Wales by creating new job opportunities and apprenticeships for local people, as well as providing supply chain opportunities for local businesses."

A Vale Council spokeswoman said: "The council is grateful for this funding opportunity which will assist in addressing the backlog of highway, mainly as a result of the very harsh winters in 2009 and 2010.

"The council spent £2.4m on highway repairs in 2011/12 and a great deal more funding is required. However this borrowing will enable the resurfacing plan to continue at a similar level for the next three years."

PACT meetings

***STANWELL PACT**, May 25 in Elfed Avenue United Church at 7pm.*

***LLANDOUGH PACT,** May 28 in Llandough War Memorial Hall at 7pm.*

***COURT PACT**, May 30 at The Scout Hall, Everard Street, Barry at 7pm.*

***ST ATHAN PACT**, June 3 at The Gathering Place at 2pm.*

***ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT**, June 6 in the back room of the Windsor Public House at 7pm.*

Bridge Club results

THE results of the Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club for May 14 are as follows:

First – Mike Best and David Birt, 68.96 per cent; Second – Mary Moore and Di Jones, 62.08 per cent; Third – Simon and Debbie Richards, 60.83 per cent; Fourth – Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner, 55.42 per cent; Joint fifth – Alan Lewis and Terry Evans, and Miriam Hendren and Simon Gottschalk, 53.96 per cent.

Cowbridge's new mayor takes office – with all due pomp and ceremony!

Photographs by **MIKE WILCOCK**

THIS year's Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Nicola Thomas, can lay claim to a almost unbroken association with the town, after being born and brought up in Tyn-y-Caer Farm on Primrose Hill.

She went to school at Y Bont Faen Primary, and then moved on to Cowbridge High School for Girls. To complete the circle, she is now the chair of governors at her old primary school.

Her Cowbridge credentials are confirmed by the fact that she has spent all but seven years of her life around the town – all of that time involved in farming.

Those early years at Primrose Hill were followed by a move to a farm near St Hilary, at East Down Farm.

Her only time away from the town was a seven-year period in Newtown in mid-Wales, where her two children were born.

Her son, Wayne, lives in Pendoylan and, as a charted surveyor, works mainly in the north Wales and north-west of England for a property company, while her daughter, Emma, is chief accountant for Huntleigh Technologies in Cardiff.

She told The GEM that her priorities as mayor would be to argue to preserve the character and traditions of the town – and of the rural Vale.

It means that one thing that is weighing heavily on her mind is the issue of fracking in Llandow – something that she opposes intensely.

In fact, a two-day public inquiry into the appeal by Coastal Oil and Gas to conduct an exploratory drilling was due to finish yesterday (Wednesday).

Coun Thomas is adamant that fracking could change the character of the Vale – although she fears that the exploratory drilling will get the go-ahead.

She said: "There are too many uncertainties about fracking and the Welsh Government should be looking at tidal energy instead."

Fracking has been accused of many things, including polluting the ground water and causing earthquakes.

However, Coun Thomas fears that, even if the process were to go ahead even without the headline drawbacks, it would still have a big effect on the Vale.

She said: "The gas released by fracking would be most useful to factories as cheap energy, and it might attract more factories to estates like Llandow.

"Although this seems initially attractive, with more jobs, an influx of workers can change the character an area."

She continued: "I saw this happen to Newtown while I was there. When I arrived, it was very similar to Cowbridge. It was a market town, with the same mix of shops, and it even had a Bear Hotel!

"Then, they built factories in industrial estates around the town, and workers moved to the area from the midlands to work there. They were not highly paid jobs, and soon the mix of shops started to change, with shops like Peacocks coming in.

"Now, the Bear Hotel in Newtown is closed, and the town is very different."

So, protecting the rural Vale is a priority, and so is finding the right balance for Cowbridge. She argues that the town needs more parking to protect its economic viability, and would like to see the Vale Council consider a commercial car park.

She said: "Not a monstrous multi-storey, but something tasteful, like the two-storey one in Mermaid Quay in Cardiff Bay."

She added: "My husband Gerald and I are members of the Country Land Owners Association, and so many members tell us that they come to Cowbridge as often as they can. We need to make sure the town stays a market town and not a fringe town for industry."

The mayor presided over her first council meeting last week, and Coun Gwen Baty will be her deputy.

The mayior has already attended three official engagements, with her consort Coun Andrea Burges.

She said: "On Friday, I attended the final event of the Cowbridge Book Festival, and the organisers have done a wonderful job in establishing the event so quickly.

"On Saturday, we were at the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir's concert in the leisure centre, and that was wonderful, and then on Sunday, there was a brass ensemble at Holy Cross Church, playing in aid of the church restoration fund."

Clearly, there are busy times ahead for the mayor. She said: "It will be a busy year, particularly as my duties as chair of governors at Y Bont Faen Primary are pretty 'full on'.

"However, it is great to be involved in a school that is doing so well, and Mr Meic Griffiths is an excellent headteacher who believes in involving the school in the community."

The most pressing matter for the mayor at the moment involves arrangements for building a beacon on the downs above Cowbridge, as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

This has to take place at the same time as other beacons, at 10.15pm on Sunday, June 4.

Coun Thomas is hopeful that the event could be a real community event, attracting people from Cowbridge and its neighbouring villages.

PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: The Mayor, Coun Nicola Thomas, with her consort Coun Andrea Burges.

ABOVE: Coun Gwen Baty, the deputy mayor with her consort, son Geraint.

Community council makes appointments

AT a meeting of the St Nicholas with Bonvilston Community Council on Monday, May 14, the following appointments were made:

Chairman, Roy S Burston; vice-chairman, Paul Fisher.

The following were appointed to represent the council at meetings of the following bodies:

Coun P Fisher – South Wales Police Forum; Coun K Fuller – governor, St Nicholas Church in Wales School; Coun M Furnham – Vale of Glamorgan Conservation Committee; Coun Ms G Rawson – Vale of Glamorgan Joint Liaison Committee; Coun M Furnham – Deputy for Coun Ms G Rawson.

D MEIRION EVANS, Clerk

'Right, folks, what am I bid for this?'

GLAMORGAN Hunt held a very successful auction at Wern Wen recently. The crowd were kept amused by the quick wit of the autioneers from HRT, and the antics of some of the porters who showed off the sale items.

Pictures by Heather March

Festival flavours at Eisteddfod

IN the countdown to the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, organisers are working with Wales the True Taste and the People's Collection to appeal for old family recipes in the Blas y Brifwyl (Festival Flavours) campaign.

This aims to create a bank of Welsh family recipes, collating recipes passed from generation to generation. The campaign reaches a tasty climax during the Eisteddfod itself, when some of the recipes will be prepared in the Wales the True Taste kitchen on the Maes. A spokesperson said they were encouraging people to load recipes to the People's Collection website, the national online archive.

Go to: www.peoplescollection-wales.co.uk to load your recipe or go through the website: www.eisteddfod.org.uk. You can also send your recipe to the Eisteddfod Office, 40 Parc Ty Glas, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5DU.

People are being encouraged to go online at: www.walesthetrue-taste.co.uk and vote for their favourite restaurant, café or tea-room, farm shop or deli, butcher and fishmonger, as part of Wales' first 'People's Choice' food awards.

The public vote will run until May 28, with everyone who enters automatically going into a draw to win a Michelin-starred dining experience or a hamper of True Taste Award-winning goodies.

The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod will be held on the old airfield at Llandow near Cowbridge and Llantwit Major from August 4-11.

For more information, go to: ***www.eisteddfod.org.uk.***

CHARITY COFFEE

AGE CONCERN'S Western Vale Good Neighbour scheme is holding its annual coffee morning on June 7 at the Llantonian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, from 10am-12pm.

Admission is £1.50 and this includes coffee, tea and biscuits, plus top-ups. Stalls include homemade cakes and produce, bric-a-brac, plants and a raffle. Proceeds go towards the Good Neighbour scheme.

LADIES' GROUP

THE Cowbridge Ladies, a new fundraising group for The British Heart Foundation Cymru, is calling for more members to be part of a team that raises money for a great cause.

Join them for a cuppa and a chat at the Arboreal Restaurant in Cowbridge on June 21 at 10am until 12 noon.

For more information, contact Sharon Owen, fundraising volunteer manager on 02929 3824087 or 07718 638158; email owensh@bhf.org.uk.

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Assembly Plan lays down foundations for growth and jobs

THIS WEEK, I launched our Wales Infrastructure Plan for Growth and Jobs, outlining how the Welsh Government will invest over £15bn over the next decade in capital projects to stimulate and boost our economy.

This Plan for Growth and Jobs is in stark contrast to the UK Government's austerity measures.

The Welsh Government believes we need to take action now to show business, local government and the NHS that we are going to spend every pound available to us, get the best value for money and give a pipeline of projects, so that the construction industry can be clear what the public sector has planned.

In my statement to the Senedd, I said that our approach will set us on the right path to ensure that Wales has 21st Century transport, IT and energy networks; a sustainable low carbon Wales, as part of a skilled and efficient country where businesses thrive and where our expertise is globally renowned.

Also, a Wales which invests in a capital programme for schools, housing and health – fit for this century.

Investment in these key areas is already a priority and as part of my statement, I announced over £40m for road improvements, housing, schools and health this week, as well as the first tranche of new funding for the plan.

Projects also included energy efficiency programmes, flood alleviation measures and M4 improvements in this region.

I also announced a new mortgage guarantee scheme.

This will increase the supply of affordable homes and increase access to home ownership.

Working with all the Ministers in the Welsh Government, I joined Huw Lewis AM, the Housing and Regeneration Minister in Ely on Monday, to support the launch of his Housing White Paper at the Greenfarm housing development.

Last week, he announced the targets he has set for making at least 12,500 more homes available, including bringing empty homes back into use.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

With the extra money I am awarding this week, the empty homes initiative will be expanded, and we will also deliver a Welsh Housing Bond to help finance more affordable homes to rent.

The plan also covers the new ways we are levering in additional funds to finance this capital investment, at a time of deep cuts by the UK Government.

We are engaged in talks with the UK Government to allow us to borrow to finance this investment, as well as secure a better deal for our funding arrangements.

These talks have cross-party support in the Assembly.

In the meantime, we are working with local government to use their borrowing capacity and last week I announced the local government borrowing initiative, which sees more than £60 million of additional investment in our highways alone, with up to £170m over the next three years, including an allocation to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Every local authority in Wales signed up to this scheme and the work on site is already underway.

We estimate that over 900 jobs will be created or safeguarded as a result of this scheme, which is great news for the construction industry – providing jobs and growth in Wales as well as much-needed improvements to our roads and highways.

My message is that we have a duty to be ambitious and to work for growth and jobs.

The Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan will enable us to do this and will show clearly how we will use £16bn+ to this end, across all sectors, in a whole Government approach.

I look forward to working with our partners in the newly-elected local authorities to maximise the impact of this plan.

AM's surgery

Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery this Saturday (May 26) from 10am to 12 noon at Barry Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street. No appointment necessary.

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POLICE APPEAL AFTER ROBBERY

POLICE in the Vale are keen to find out if a series of valuable stolen items have been offered for sale.

They are appealing for information, after a burglary at a property in the Primrose Hill area of Cowbridge, sometime between 10pm on Friday, April 6, and 2pm on Saturday, April 7.

A police spokeswoman said: "A number of high value items were stolen from an out-building after intruders forced entry."

The property stolen included: various Snap-On tools; Vossen VVS CV1 Black Range Rover wheels (24" complete with Pirelli tyres) worth approx £5,000; Audi A3 Black Edition 18" Arm Rota Diamond cut wheels (with tyres) worth approx £2,000; 19" Calibre Friction Wheels (with Pirelli tyres) worth approx £1,200; a HPI BAJA 5BF petrol car worth approx £950; a Westwood T1900 lawn mower worth approx £6,000; a Honda TRX 450 EX Farm Quad worth approx £8,400; KTM 450 Leisure Quad worth approx £8,500.

Officers are appealing for anyone who may have information, or who may have been offered these items for sale, to contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Stagecoach marks success

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts has announced new performance arts awards.

The Musical Theatre awards assess each child in a group performance, who then receive a qualification, accredited by Ofqual, part of the qualifications and credits framework.

Stagecoach said that students were able to take an award as part of their end-of-term performance. 139 children chose to do so, and were assessed by two visiting examiners.

"The children and their teachers are celebrating because all 139 passed their award with outstanding results all round. Each child was presented with a certificate and written report," said Stagecoach Principal Helene Reynolds.

For more information about Stagecoach visit: www.stagecoach.co.uk/bridgend, or contact Helene on 01446 781454.

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SEARCH IS ON FOR VALE'S TOP GARDENERS

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has launched its annual search for the area's top gardens.

The 'Vale in Bloom Competition' involves residents and businesses across the Vale.

The competition will cover three classes of Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket Display and Best Business with a special category for Best Jubilee Themed Display (open to all including children).

The competitions are free to enter, with cash prizes and plaques or certificates.

Some winners can also receive the following trophies:
Front Garden: Penarth's best entry in the seafront conservation area receives the Robert and Joan Ernest Trophy. Best Business: Cabot Trophy.

The only requirement for entry is that displays must be visible from the road or footpath to the front of the property.

Application forms can be obtained from Council Offices in Barry (Civic and Dock), Wenvoe (The Alps), local libraries, by telephoning 01446 700111 and on the Council website **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

The closing date for entries is Monday, 16th July, 2012

Be a winner in the Vale's annual gardening competition

Competition Classes

- **Barry, Penarth and Villages**

1. Best Front Garden
2. Best Hanging Basket Display
3. Best Business

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Entry Form
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Vale in Bloom, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA

- Entries must be clearly visible from the road or footpath to the front of the property.
- Prizes will be awarded for the first, second and third placed entrants in each class, as the judges deem appropriate. Plaques or certificates will be awarded to prize winners in all classes. Cash prizes will be awarded for non-commercial classes only. Business classes can allocate their prize to a charity of their choice.
- Entrants who win a class for three consecutive years will not be allowed to enter the following year.
- Classes for the "Vale in Bloom Competition" will be – Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket, Best Business and Best jubilee Themed entry
- **Judging will take place from week commencing Monday, 23rd July 2012 and Monday, 30th July, 2012**
- Judges decision will be final in all classes.
- **Closing date for entries will be on Monday, 16th July, 2012.**

Beautiful sunshine for motor enthusiasts as they flock to Llandow for racing experience

AS GEM photgrapher Glyn Evans' pictures show, a mixture of vintage racing cars took to the track at Llandow to race against the clock (and each other) around one of south Wales' top circuits recently.

It was an event for true petrolheads, and enthusiasts were drawn from all over to compete.

Llandow kart stars show motorists the way

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

IT wasn't just motor racing enthusiasts who could get their fill at Llandow, some of the area's top karting talent put their experience on display in some heated racing.

GEM photographer Glyn Evans also caught some of the speedsters in the thick of the action as they, too, took advantage of the glorious south Wales weather.

Vale Ramblers in the steps of the pilgrims

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers' spring weekend away had been arranged in conjunction with Cresta Coaches, and Ian Frazer and Margaret Scott of the Ramblers.

We made our way down to Portsmouth, where we caught the ferry to the Isle of Wight. Shanklin was to be our base for three days.

Saturday dawned bright and early, and 25 eager walkers were looking forward to either a 12-mile or six-mile walk, part of the Isle of Wight Walking Festival.

On arriving at Carrisbrooke Castle, they were told that the walk had actually started. The leader doubled back (not sure how he managed to miss 25 walkers). He did redeem himself at the halfway point, where he had made arrangements for the Ramblers to be met by his aunt, who had baked flapjacks and rock cakes, and they were also able to fill up their water bottles.

The views were magnificent across the water towards Southampton, and as they walked to Freshwater Bay, the start of the famous Needles were apparent.

Sunday saw the group making their way to Ventnor for the start of the eight-mile walk titled 'A pilgrimage to the Holy Wells', taking in the coastline, and going through the Botanical Gardens in Ventnor.

After stopping for a break overlooking the Channel, they made their way inland to the village of Whitwell, which in the Middle Ages was a very important village for the Pilgrims. On the way back to Ventnor was the footpath known as 'cripple path', and the walkers thought of the people who made this journey from the bottom of the cliff to the top looking to be cured of their ailments.

For further information about walks visit the Facebook page, or: www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

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The Ramblers enjoyed their weekend on the Isle of Wight.

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Time to plan ahead with PASSMORES

LAWYERS around Wales and England are running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign, to encourage people to plan ahead to avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in October 2009.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enable a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority. This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans of Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements, should contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000, or by email ce@passmores.com

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Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family are no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document, that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly, is inviting you to attend a no-obligation appointment to find out more.

For more information, please call:
Carli Evans on 01446 721000
or by email ce@passmores.com.

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HAIRDRESSERS CUT ABOVE THE REST AT SALON CYMRU

YOUNG hairdressers from salons in Bridgend, St Brides Major and Porthcawl proved they were a cut above the rest by winning prizes at Wales' premier event for creative hairdressing and beauty recently.

Rebecca Watkins from USTU salon in Porthcawl won the Cut it like Essex competition and Toni Ann James, The Priory, Bridgend was runner-up at ISA Training's Salon Cymru held at The SWALEC Stadium, Cardiff.

Taking 'The Only Way is Essex' television series as its theme, competitors were challenged to create their own Joey and Lauren cut and blow dry.

Stacey Ranson from Coast Hair Studio in St Brides Major was awarded two third prizes in the Vamp it up and Cutting with the X-Factor competitions.

Overall champion of Salon Cymru was hair stylist Marcus Scott, who owns Identity salon in Haverfordwest.

Popular television programmes and films inspired the themes for the six competitions at the popular event, which attracted the best young hairdressers from across Wales and Gloucestershire.

More than 120 competitors took part in the dynamic event, which was compered by BBC Wales presenter Lucy Owen and attracted an audience of around 500. The main sponsor was City & Guilds.

Organised by Bridgend-based ISA Training, the largest independent hairdressing training provider in Wales, Salon Cymru is open to all hairdressing and beauty learners from schools, colleges and training providers.

The full results were: *Gleek Chic: 1, Kristian Johns, Spirit Hair Team, Ystrad Mynach, 2, Alex Williams, Coleg Gwent, Newport, 3, Emma Bennett, Identity, Haverfordwest;*

Cut it like Essex: 1, Rebecca Watkins, USTU, Porthcawl, 2, Toni Ann James, The Priory, Bridgend, 3, Geraint Peter Osborne, Kudos, Pontyclun;

Strictly Hair Up: 1, Sara Williams, Coleg Menai, Bangor, 2, Laura Chandler, Lashoka, Pontypridd, 3, Emma Bennett;

Vamp it up: 1, Nikki Nelson, Pembrokeshire College, 2, Marcus Scott, 3, Stacey Ranson, Coast Hair Studio, St Brides Major;

Cutting with the X-Factor: 1, Marcus Scott, 2, Natasha Dance, Friends, Newport, 3, Stacey Ranson;

Red Carpet Make-up: 1, Leila Hanford, Coleg Gwent, 2, Katie Thomas, NuYu, Milford Haven, 3, Rhoslyn Phillips, Ystrad Mynach College.

Rebecca Watkins (second from right) of USTU salon, Porthcawl, and her models, receives the Cut it like Essex award from Gemma Amura (left) from Paul Mitchell, watched by ISA Training s managing director Shirley Davis-Fox (right) at Salon Cymru.

New Operations Director for Cardiff Airport

CARDIFF Airport has announced the appointment of Debra Barber as its new Operations Director.

A spokesperson stated that she had a successful career with the RAF, having spent ten years working in and around RAF airfields as an air traffic controller, before retiring as Group Captain and Air Traffic Management Force Commander, responsible for all RAF air traffic units in the UK and around the world.

She played a leading role in the commercial development and expansion of Basrah International Airport in Iraq.

She also had command responsibilities for the military element of the En Route Air Traffic Control Centre at Swanwick in Hampshire, was directly involved in the UK response to the volcanic ash crisis in 2010, and represented the military air traffic management organisation during preparations for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"I am absolutely delighted to join Cardiff Airport at this important time in its history," Debra said.

"Having visited Wales many times during my career – including many visits to RAF Valley in Anglesey and to nearby St Athan, I look forward now to exploring the beautiful countryside in south Wales, and to becoming an integral part of the community," she said.

YMCA's search for local talent!

THE Barry YMCA is working in partnership with It's My Shout and BBC Wales to produce a film to be screened on BBC Wales.

It is now seeking help with set design, catering, hair and make-up, producing, sound recording, lighting, locations, composition and photography; also assistant directors, camera operators,.

All ages and abilities are welcome to apply.

The first casting session is being held at Barry YMCA today (May 24) from 4pm.

Further information can be obtained from the Barry YMCA, on 01446 724000, or email mike@dmedigital.co.uk

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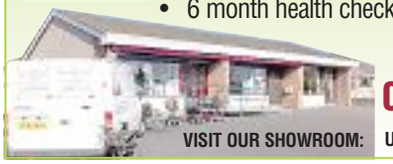

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Out and About with The GEM

Christian entertainer set to light up weekend

THE Methodist Churches in The Vale of Glamorgan are putting on a great weekend for children and adults on May 26-27.

John Hardwick is a Christian singer/songwriter, story teller, juggler and author. He does work in schools, and all-age presentations and worship at many of the big national Christian events.

On the Saturday morning, he will be at Saint John Methodist Church, Barry Island from 9.30am. He will lead a 'creative communication' workshop for adults only.

Anyone from local Christian churches who works with children, is welcome to come along. Visit: *www.johnhardwick.org.uk.*

On Saturday afternoon, the big event for children is 'John Hardwick's Cool and Crazy Praise Party' at The Gathering Place Methodist Church and Community Centre, Saint Athan, from 3.30pm-5.30pm (for children aged four-11).

All children must have adult supervision. The event is free, donations for refreshments are welcome. Please register your interest with the ministers. On Sunday May 27, John will lead an all-age worship at The Gathering Place, from 10.30am-11.30am. All welcome.

For more information and to confirm attendance, contact 01446 406262, or: deaconsam@live.co.uk.

Deacon Sam and Rev Peter Taylor

To the Woods!

TO THE WOODS' fairytale exhibition will be staged at St Donat's Art Centre, in association with the Beyond the Border storytelling festival, from June 6-July 1.

It will feature work inspired by the Brothers Grimm's fairytales, to mark the bicentenary of their first publication.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday (May 23) a Nordic walking taster, was led by Howell Isaac (of Age Cymru) from Southerndown.

Next Tuesday, May 29 at 1.30pm, there is a 'Woodland Trail to Lake, at Welsh St Donats, starting from Hensol Forest car park (OS 032768).

Transition meets

TRANSITION Llantwit is holding a meeting at 7.30pm today (May 24) at The Heritage Centre, Llantwit Major Town Hall.

For more details, contact us at: transition.llantwit@googlemail.com.

Race night

FRIDAY, May 25, will see Barry Rugby Club continue their fundraising events for their 125th anniversary which begins in September.

A race night will begin at 7.30pm with the first race at 8pm. Entry is £2, payable at the door.

Ken Chow will also be on hand with some culinary expertise and all proceeds will go towards supporting events for next season.

Lib-dem advice

WELSH Lib-Dem AM for south Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, May 25 in Maesteg Library from 2pm-3pm.

No appointment is necessary.

Airship flight

THE Rhoose and District History Society presents a talk by Mike Wilcock, on the Goodyear airship flight from Rhoose to Cardiff city centre, this Friday, May 25, at 7.30pm in the rear hall of Rhoose Community Centre, Stewart Road.

Tickets at the door, £1 per adult; 50p per child (under 16).

Spring fayre

THE spring fayre for The Children's Society will be held on Saturday, May 26 at The Paget Rooms, Penarth, from 10am-12 noon.

The stalls are varied – homemade cakes/preserves/plants/books/gifts /cards/mystery parcels and raffle. Admission 50p, includes coffee/tea/biscuits. *Contact 029 20703547.*

Beach clean

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will be holding their next beach clean on Sunday, May 27, at Whitmore Bay, Barry Island, meeting by Marco's cafe at the usual time of 3pm.

All volunteers, old and young, will be welcome to spend an hour helping to clean the beach.

Litter picking equipment will be provided.

FOBB will be collecting signatures for 'Petition Fish', the Wildlife Trust petition calling on the Government to urgently set up a network of marine protection zones around Britain's coast.

Pentecost service

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square is holding a family communion service to celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, May 27 at 10am.

All ages welcomed.

Table top sale

THERE will be a taple top/indoor boot sale at Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major on Sunday May 27, from 9am-1pm to raise money for th National Eisteddfod in Llandow.

Tables, £5 donation, booking essential. Refreshments available. *Contact Ros Lewis on 01445 793530.*

Public consultation

COMMUNITIES First Partnerships have submitted a joint cluster proposal for areas in need, to the Welsh Government – to extend activities to parts of the Cadoc and Buttrills Ward, Barry.

The public is being asked for its views at a consultation fun day at Barry Memorial Hall on Monday, May 28 from 2pm-6.30pm.

Fun activities include photographs, creche facilities, face painting, Zumba, street dancing, arts and crafts, pottery workshops, cake making and dressmaking.

For further information, contact the Communities First team on 01446 709432, or 01446 732406.

Live music

THE Cerys Potter Foundation will benefit from live music by the Rachel K Collier Band on Friday June 1 at the Green Dragon Llancadle.

Tickets are £10 per adult or £5 for children under 12, which will include a light supper.

Contact Julie on 01446 781271, or: japroowan@tesco.net for tickets.

Gardens opening over the Bank Holiday weekend

THE following local gardens will be open over the Bank Holiday weekend:

Pontygwaith Farm, Edwardsville, CF46 5PD

LARGE garden surrounding a 17th century farmhouse adjacent to Trevithick's Tramway. Large garden situated in a picturesque wooded valley, which includes a fish pond, lawns, colourful perennial borders, a lakeside walk to explore and a beautiful rose garden. Grade II listed humpback packhorse bridge in garden, spanning the River Taff.

A lovely day out for all the family.

Open Saturday, Sunday and Monday (June 2, 3, 4); admission £3, 10am-5pm.

Llanmaes Gardens, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major, CF61 2XR

LLANMAES, a mile from Llantwit Major, is a pretty village with attractive village green, with stream running through, and a 13th century church.

***Old Froglands** is an historic farmhouse, with streams and woodland areas linked by bridges.*

Ducks swim and chickens roam free.

The vegetable plot is now productive. Plantings are varied with interesting foliage.

***Mehefin** is a modern house with cottage garden plantings and scented roses.*

Butterflies and insects are attracted to plants in the meadow area where mown paths guide you around the vegetable plot and trees.

Open Sunday June 3, admission £4, 11am-5pm.

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Baron Cohen 'Dictates' laughter in shock comedy

HAVING shocked and amused in equal measure with *Borat* and *Bruno*, Sacha Baron Cohen has shown there is more to him than just shock tactics with roles in the likes of *Sweeney Todd* and *Hugo*.

However, Baron Cohen's latest sees him mine a similar comedic vein to his previous characters in *The Dictator*.

Baron Cohen plays an oppressive, democracy-hating dictator named General Aladeen; when Aladeen travels to America to speak to the UN he is kidnapped and replaced by a lookalike.

Stripped of his beard and his identity, Aladeen, with the help of Zoe (Anna Faris) must try and stop his double passing through laws that will ruin his dictatorship…

If you've seen *Borat* or *Bruno*, you'll have a pretty good idea of what *The Dictator* will offer. As skilled a comedic actor as Sacha Baron Cohen is, you can be sure that biting satire and clever digs at PC society will hidden under gags that are coarse and in bad taste.

The Dictator doesn't alter from this formula, but in his pantheon of filmic characters, it sits somewhere between *Borat* and *Bruno*, the film lacking the same innocence as the former, but thankfully eschewing the knowing cynicism of the latter.

The fact that Baron Cohen made this film because he found Colonel Gaddafi funny gives you some idea of his comedic sensibility, and the humour continues in that vein; the jokes sometimes test the boundaries of taste, pushing the sort of buttons that extreme elements of society will no doubt decry; but the humour also makes several salient points about how even those who live in a 'free' world are in some ways dictated to without really noticing.

While of questionable taste, there is a surreal tint to the humour, infused with that unique strand of British comedy that travels so well, shades of Python-esque absurdity sitting side by side with childbirth gags that will make even the most liberal of people gnaw on their hands.

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

At the centre of it all is a wonderful turn by Baron Cohen, who plays Waladeen as a man so ingrained into his world and having every whim catered for that anything he does and asks for is made possible (even trysts with Hollywood's biggest names!).

The character lacks much comedic potential outside of this, so placing Waladeen on the outside looking in (a thread in all Baron Cohen's characters) means that the maximum comic mileage can be wrought out – and it is.

Working with regular director, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* veteran Larry Charles, the pair aim and hit the majority of their targets, Charles bringing the disparate elements of the film and making it a cohesive and, by and large, satisfying whole.

You can imagine how freewheeling Baron Cohen must be (as evidenced by the end credits gag reel) so Charles deserves a lot of credit for wrangling everything together, shooting the film through naturally and mining the comedy for what it is worth.

As much as Baron Cohen dominates proceedings, there is still room for the likes of Anna Faris, who as the love interest takes a one-dimensional character and, along with Baron Cohen moulds it into something more memorable.

The likes of Ben Kingsley, Jason Mantzoukas, plus cameos from the likes of Garry Shandling, Kathryn Hahn and Bobby Lee, all bring a little something to the table.

But the main imprint is that of Baron Cohen, and it is humour and performance that dominates the film. If you can't handle his brand of comedy, then *The Dictator* isn't for you, but if you love it, then this film will be right up your street.

VERDICT: Sitting somewhere between *Borat* and *Bruno*, *The Dictator* nonetheless gives your funny bone quite a work-out, the humour shocking and close to the bone but clever and satirical at the same time. Sacha Baron Cohen leads from the front with a winning performance, making *The Dictator* quite the bad taste comedy! *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Borat* (2006), *Bruno* (2009).

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D723.

● **£2,000:** 698998.

● **The rollover, which now stands at £11,000, was not won this week.**

● **£10:** 416468, 439206, 914642, 848893, 223636, 640215, 437502, 623045, 891223, 537922, 315256, 702473, 918642, 571916, 579493, 511842, 179551, 765543, 185188, 919165.

● **£5:** 153201, 925793, 481366, 689791, 874352, 622736, 719329, 930069, 616163, 241112, 597464, 786012, 320398, 216276, 342788, 568520, 417887, 749573, 596302, 916668, 552352, 205646, 873199, 766073, 472532, 617001, 776809, 354580, 668872, 753649, 745849, 288878, 395363, 340464, 952855, 288650, 887947, 209508, 861242, 159659,169196, 432303, 264734, 269302, 721459, 625629, 864825, 583652, 608120, 793253, 625570, 751373, 731916, 102285, 152020, 238008, 507451, 493973, 631045, 588753.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

'EISTEDDFOD WILL PUT VALE ON MAP FOR YEARS TO COME'

Vale Conservative MP **Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

LANDOW is in the spotlight this week – for two very different reasons.

Later this week, work will start on the site of the National Eisteddfod 2012 in the western Vale.

The site preparation however, follows closely on the heels of a public inquiry into the planning application for exploration of shale gas at a site on the Llandow Business Park.

I was absolutely delighted when the brilliant news broke that the National Eisteddfod was coming to the Vale this August.

Since my childhood, I've been going to the Eisteddfod regularly, and have enjoyed hours of wandering the Maes (the site where the festival is held), meeting old friends, and of course listening to the competitions and the concerts.

The Eisteddfod is a very special event that will attract up to 160,000 visitors to the Vale, acting as a shop window for economic investments in general and tourism in the Vale.

The Eisteddfod can generate up to £6-8 million to the host area each year, which is great news for local businesses.

Recent figures show that 11.2 per cent of people living in the Vale are employed in the tourism and hospitality sectors, with many more living further afield by working in the Vale.

Ironic, then, that during the same week work starts on the Eisteddfod site, we also have the public inquiry into the planning application for exploration for shale gas.

Although we won't know the outcome of the inquiry by the time you read this article, I will have made my representation to the Planning Inspector at the inquiry in Barry.

My very real concerns are that the potential discovery of shale gas will most certainly go against the aspirations we share for the communities of the Vale to live, work and welcome tourists to such a beautiful part of Wales.

It's important to use the Eisteddfod as an opportunity to bring together the traditions of the Vale as well – the native Welsh speakers, English-language areas, and people who have moved here to live.

The Vale is a unique place, combining the beauty of the rural areas and the legacy of the stunning coastline, with our industrial history of coal exporting and the traditional miners' holidays to Barry Island in the summer. I was greatly encouraged to hear that many local businesses have already committed to supporting the Eisteddfod through sponsorship – from Lafarge in Aberthaw, to SiteServe in Llandow and Harris Pye Marine in Barry.

Fundraising within local communities right across the Vale has been a huge challenge for all involved, but well worth the effort as targets are being met.

Only last Saturday, I supported the popular and successful Hogaroc event in Penllyn as their event auctioneer.

There has been a kaleidoscope of events from sporting days out, themed evenings, fish and chip suppers and dog shows, to name but a few, which have helped raise essential funds.

I'd urge local traders and tourism providers to make sure that they plan ahead, to maximise all the opportunities presented by this week-long event.

I will also be pressing the local authority to ensure that all areas and towns around the Maes location are ship-shape and looking their best. If you'd like to find out more about the opportunities available from stalls and bunting to tickets, you can contact the Eisteddfod office on 0845 4090 300.

With such an influx of visitors to the area it's vital that the significant increase in traffic is well-managed.

I know that the organizers and local authority officers have been working hard over the past few months to lessen any disruption to locals and visitors alike.

I would, however, urge the planners to consult with local farmers and businesses based in the western Vale, regarding their traffic plans and routes.

I'm really looking forward to a fantastic and unforgettable Eisteddfod this year.

It really needs to be, of course, to ensure the legacy of the festival in our community.

I'm convinced that the Eisteddfod will put the Vale on the map, not only in 2012, but for many years to come.

'Worn by you, loved by us' *campaign*

THE Tenovus cancer charity recently launched the campaign '*worn by you, loved by us*' to encourage people to donate their unwanted clothes to their local Tenovus charity shop.

The cause supports local cancer patients and the charity stressed that any item, whether it is high street or high end fashion, helps to fund the charity's work.

Liz Rawlins, campaign manager at Tenovus, explained: "Every single item donated to any one of our shops raises vital funds that enable us to support cancer patients and their families across Wales.

"One bag of clothing makes on average £20. That £20 means we can continue to provide services such as treating people closer to home with our mobile cancer support unit, bereavement counselling and keeping our freephone cancer support line open seven days a week".

Local people can get involved with 'worn by you, loved by us' by taking along unwanted items to your local Tenovus shops:

60 Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4HE. 01446 721890;

44 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AG. Tel: 01446 775695;

23 Windsor Road, Penarth, CF64 1JD. Tel: 029 2070 8668.

For more information, please go to www.tenovus.org.uk.

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UPDATE - 'MEET THE PEOPLE'

APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny/Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street profile

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Carrying a Torch for the Bridgend entrepreneurs

(WHO OFFER SOMETHING SPECIAL TO SHOPPERS)

WHEN it comes to deciding where to shop in Bridgend, there is a temptation to think of the town's central area, and then to look at the surrounding trading estates and retail parks.

That is often a mistake, and it is certainly the case for people approaching Bridgend from the Ewenny area via Nolton Street.

Anyone whose mind is already made up will miss a considerable amount of retail activity, and a wide range of goods and services may pass un-noticed.

The situation is probably exacerbated in the evening, where Nolton Street can appear to be a collection of take-aways – but nothing could be further from the truth.

Wander up Nolton Street, and then on to Ewenny Road and Five Bells Road and you will find opticians, a travel agent, boutiques, fashion accessories, gift shops, cafes, jewellery shops, pharmacists, a dental practice, public houses, hairdressers, a delicatessen, furniture outlets, a cycle shop, sweet shop, a upvc window supplier and even a shop selling nothing but beads!

What's more, the eating establishments are by no means all take-aways.

RELAXING MEAL

There are plenty of places to sit down and have a relaxed meal.

The street is also a home for social welfare organisations such as Mental Health matters and DASH, and the Bridgend MP, Madeleine Moon, has her constituency office in Nolton Street, too.

The area will certainly be noticed this coming Saturday (May 26) because it is one of a only a few stretches in Bridgend county borough where the Olympic torch will pass on foot (as opposed to in a bus!)

TORCH ROUTE

Timings released by the local authority indicate that it should start its journey along Derwen Road and then Nolton Street at 2.40pm.

The torch bearers will then turn right at the traffic lights onto Cowbridge Road, before heading left to Bryntirion and Laleston.

Julian Gittings of Nolton Antiques said that Nolton Street was a good choice for the torch's journey.

He said: "Nolton comes from the Roman for 'old town' and this is the original Bridgend shopping area."

One new business is 'Ella Rileys' an old-fashioned sweet shop – recently repainted in bright pink, which was hardly the right colour for the previous tenant, the Army Recruitment unit!

In this case, the shop is just the tip of the iceberg, because the USP of this business is that they are manufacturing a much-loved old sweet – Riley's Toffee Rolls – which went out of production years ago.

However, the husband and wife team of Steve and Freya Bletsoe discovered the recipe about 10 years ago and started making the toffee rolls.

About six months ago they moved to south Wales and currently wholesale the product to customers around the UK.

Chris Heyns runs Wild About Beads with his wife Caroline, and they have been trading in Ewenny Road for three years.

Chris said that the key to being as successful as they had was in offering personal service and a huge range of stock.

He added: "Sometimes, people come in and are just overwhelmed by the choice.

"As a result, we have customers who come from a wide area – from Barry to Carmarthen."

Of course, there are quite a number of businesses that ply their trade as Ewenny Road makes its way out of town.

Christopher Designs decided two years ago to move from Llandow to a new unit on the Ogmore Road.

'EXCELLENT PLACE'

The owner, Christopher Rowbottom, told The GEM that customers enjoyed combining a visit to the store with a trip to the countryside.

"He said: "We traded in Llandow for more than 20 years, but this is an excellent place to do business."

Shoppers can get lazy. They get in the car and travel a well-worn path to their usual haunt.

Little do they realise that there are vibrant, innovative businesses out there offering personal service – and that something extra!

Bridgend has more than its fair share of keen entrepreneurs who have something different to offer.

It's just a case of taking time to look.

PHILIP IRWIN

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APPROACHING BRIDGEND...

Ewenny/Ewenny Road/Five Bells Road/Nolton Street profile

Meet the people of the area

Julie Hughes, of 'Interiors'.

ABOVE: Chris and Caroline Heyns, of Wild About Beads.

Where did you get that hat? Julian Griffiths, of Nolton Antiques.

Christopher Rowbottom, of Christophers Designs (Furniture) Ltd.

ABOVE: Mother and son Maria and Ben Phillips, of Bridgend Foot Clinic.

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10% OFF purchases - just mention our GEM advert

60 years on, the coronation remembered

ON Saturday, June 2, between 10am and 4pm, the Cowbridge Museum, located in Cowbridge Town Hall, will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee with a special exhibition.

The items on show include a collection of 60-year-old newspapers reporting the coronation with photographs of the ceremony and of the royal family; while other sections relate to the state coach and the coronation gown.

There are many souvenirs of royal events from the last century, and you can learn about Cowbridge's unique link with the Queen – thanks to a local thatcher.

This exhibition is in addition to the permanent collection items of local historical interest. The museum will be open on the first and third Saturdays of the month over the summer.

New volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in helping, contact David Pierce on 01446 773248.

'Cowbridge on Run' returns!

LAST year's 'Men on the Run' event in Cowbridge was a huge success and raised thousands of pounds for cancer research.

Now a second event is going to take place.

Organiser, Anne Birt, told The GEM: "Last year was a great success and we ultimately made in excess of £4,000, which for a first effort I thought was tremendous!

"We are currently organising the second annual run but this time it is 'Cowbridge on the Run' as many females have expressed the wish to compete!

"The event takes place at the rugby club on Sunday, July 1."

Look out next week in The GEM for full details of how people can get involved.

'Cut down on waste during the Jubilee'

RESIDENTS are being urged to think how they can make the most of their food when organising Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations this June with the 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign.

The 'Big Jubilee Lunch' is part of the Diamond Jubilee programme of events on Sunday June 3, led by the Eden Project and funded by the Lottery. The aim is to encourage neighbourhoods to come together in the garden or street to share lunch and a few hours of community, friendship and fun, whilst cutting down on household waste at the same time.

A spokesperson explained: "We waste over seven million tonnes and £12 billion worth of good food and drink every year in the UK just from our homes, but with a little planning, together with a few cool boxes and supply of freezer packs, it's easy to be well equipped for keeping food safe, fresh and tasty for longer."

For more information on the campaign, visit the 'Love Food Hate Waste' website: http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/, or visit 'The Big Jubilee Lunch' website at: http://www.thebiglunch.com/ to offer support on how best to reduce the amount of food waste which is produced as a result of the celebrations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Art critique

ON May 31, Cowbridge Art Society will hold a critique of members' paintings by Leslie Dearn, a full time artist, who has exhibited throughout south Wales and specialises in seascapes and people, from figure, life and nude drawing to party people and dancers.

She is also a freelance arts coordinator delivering creative workshops, life drawing classes, drawing courses, art talks and organising arts events.

The society meets at the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and for a small fee visitors are most welcome.

For further details, see: www.thecowbridgeartsociety.com.

GEM winners

THE following were GEM winners in our recent Beyond the Border competition.

Mark Stevens of Barry and Helen Hobrough of Barry each won a family ticket.

Tony Francis, Bridgend, and Bethan James, Cowbridge, each won a pair of adult evening tickets for the St Donats event.

Congratulations! Watch out for more exciting competitions in The GEM.

Cowbridge creative writing competition

THE Cowbridge creative writing competition award winners have been announced:

RESULTS

Poetry – Primary school entries:

First prize awarded to Ben Jones (11) from Llansannor Church in Wales Primary. Ben's poem on the theme of An Apology wrote a poem entitled *Sorry Teacher.*

Second prize awarded to Meghan McDonald (9)f rom Llanilltud Fawr Primary. Meghan wrote about the theme of My Shadow and called her poem *His Only Friend*

Third prize awarded to Freya Evans (10) from Llancarfan Primary. Freya also chose the theme of My Shadow and she called her poem *Me and My Shadow.*

Highly-commended runner-up was Erin Presley (7) from St Bride's Major Primary. Erin chose the Spell theme and called her poem *Dippley Dappely Dozee Puff.* Her poem was very colourful with some lovely drawings adding to the effect.

A school prize was awarded to Llansannor Church in Wales Primary School as a mark of recognition for their outstanding enthusiasm and the quality of their poems.

Descriptive/imaginative writing – secondary schools:

First prize awarded to Ruth David (15) from Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Ruth's essay on *The Sky at Night* was outstanding. Her use and control of language were well used in her imaginative and descriptive writing.

Second prize awarded to Hannah Lee (14) from Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Hannah also wrote on *The Sky at Night* Again the use of language and the quality of the writing were both excellent.

Third prize awarded to Nia Wornham Price (14) from Cowbridge Comprehensive School. Nia used the title *If I could choose I'd like to be…* to write a good story with a significant twist at the end.

Special mentions go to:

Daniel Marshall (12)from Cowbridge Comprehensive who wrote about *A Day in the Life of My Mum* with lively enthusiasm and with some thoughtful observations.

And to Harrison Pritchard (14) also from Cowbridge Comprehensive who also wrote on the topic of *If I could choose to be…*

Harrison wrote from the point of view of a USSR soldier during World War II. His writing was so convincing that he made his account totally believable and movingly poignant.

The adult category was an introductory chapter to a short story:

First prize awarded to Peter Sain ley Berry of Llanquian House, Cowbridge. His introductory chapter, entitled 'The Next Time', was an outstanding contribution to the excellent standard of narrative writing which characterised the spirit of the competition.

The wonderful setting of rural France was the background to an inspirational piece of writing.

Second prize was awarded to Candida Niman of Eastfield Cottage, Cowbridge. Her introductory chapter, entitled 'Saul' was an extremely sensitive narrative which touched upon many aspects of our recent past.

Joint third prizes are awarded to Stanley Salmons of Frondeg Hall, Wrexham and William Hainsley Hunt of Palalwyf Avenue, Pontyclun.

Stanley Salmons introduced his writing with a gripping title 'The Tomb', and his chapter lived up to any expectations of excitement and interest

William Hunt titled his chapter 'Simulator' and captivated his reader in intensely graphic descriptions of ordinary thrill seeking situations.

Vivienne Charlton

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Council meeting

THE Llangan Community Council meeting held on May 14 began with the introduction by council secretary of the procedure and rules of the council.

Six new councillors were voted on, with three former council members remaining.

Successful candidates: *Treoes – Nigel Blethyn (01656 657382); Mrs Liz Mathews (01656 646490); Mrs Beatrice H Jones (01656 661379); Mr Karl Jones (07563 532479).*

Llangan – Mel Wharmby (01656 862332); Richard Mann (01656 863825); Dave Hammond (01656 861421); Keith Jones (01656 860552); Alan Thomas (01656 861747 vice chair); Council secretary Mrs Mari Major (01656 664105).

Tennis courts

TENNIS courts, Treoes: Work is still proceeding on the planned allotments, with the hedge being cut and the cuttings cleared away.

Mr B George, the contractor, has been paid. Although former councillor James Mordecai was not re-elected (he did not wish to remain on the council) he will continue to support the tennis court project.

Planning applications approved at: Hen Dafarn, St Mary Hill – construction of a 100Kw wind turbine.

Planning objections by Llangan Community Council submitted on March 30 to the travellers' site in Llangan and the garden centre, Llangan.

Celebrations

ON Sunday, June 3, residents of Treoes will begin Jubilee celebration with a short service at Saron Chapel.

Villagers will then proceed to the playing field for a morning of games and entertainment for children and adults. Later in the afternoon, the children will be treated to tea in the community hall.

Parents are asked to contribute a plate of cakes or sandwiches for this event. In the evening, a party has been arranged for parents and adults, friends, etc.

Reminder

ST MARY HILL church will hold a barbecue at St Mary Hill on Monday, June 4. The fun will begin at 7pm, tickets £7; everyone welcome.

Concert

A CONCERT by the 'Minnesingers' will take place at St Cannas Church, Llangan on Friday, June 15 at 7.30am, tickets £7 from Liz Mathews on 01656 646490 (to include raffle ticket).

Jubilicious day at Y Bont Faen school!

THE Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in style at Y Bont Faen School this week. The school has been decked in bunting – both inside and out.

Everyone attended school either dressed as a famous person from The Queen's reign or dressed in red,white and blue outfits.

As the event coincided with the school photograph day, we decided to ensure this truly would be a day to remember, and with the help of our friends at Colorfoto, it was a very special occasion.

Staff and children took part in the fun and we are sure our school photographs are going to be something to treasure and keep.

The children took part in a Jubilee street party lunch – which had a mixture of traditional street party favourites, including jam sandwiches, ham sandwiches, cakes, crisps and, of course, the obligatory cocktail sausages.

To wrap up our day, the children and staff came together for a special award assembly. The school had taken part in a competition held by the Royal Mint, which asked the children to design a logo or motif for the Jubilee.

One pupil, Ffion, won first prize in the competition, and the Royal Mint had some very exciting and valuable gifts for her.

Ffion with one of her prizes from the Royal Mint.

She was presented with a selection of the Olympic 50 pence pieces – which depict different disciplines within the Olympic games; a selection of £5 coins to celebrate the Olympics and Paralympics; celebration coins for the Jubilee and, to top it off, three extra special 'proof' coins depicting the different ideals of 'Britishness'.

It didn't end there! As Ffion has won a prize, the Royal Mint presented the entire year-6 class with an Olympic 50 pence piece and Queen's Jubilee medal in a presentation gift box!

The school presented every child and staff member with a Queen's Jubilee medal to help them remember this extra special day. The Y Bont Faen family would like to thank the Royal Mint and Mr Heald for their help in acquiring the medals.

MG

LLANTWIT MAJOR
CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS
Don't forget the next event for lovely crafts and yummy snacks
Saturday 26th May - Llantonian Hall
(behind the library) **From 10am - 3pm**
Enquiries, contact Peta Shields
Email:peta@peartreecott.co.uk

Another outstanding concert from Cowbridge male choir

Photographs by MIKE WILCOCK

THE Cowbridge Male Voice Choir held its annual concert at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Saturday, May 19.

Unsurprisingly, given the reputation of the choir, there was a capacity audience.

The skilled and humorous compere for the evening was choir member Jon Wilks. He reminded us that the majority of the choir's public performances are in support of charitable causes.

During the last year, he said, the choir had raised £20,000 for various charities and, since its inception, it has raised approximately half a million pounds.

The choice of music prepared for the choir to perform by the musical director, Shelley Thomas- Brown and the accompanist, Sandra Williams, was eclectic and inspirational.

The choir's excellent performance of these pieces was enthusiastically applauded by the audience. (I am convinced that the applause for my favourite 'Morte Criste' was especially loud!)

The talent displayed during the evening by the choir, the musical director and the accompanist was remarkable.

An added bonus to the evening was the excellent performance of Adam J Gilbert, one of the country's most promising young baritones.

His talent and versatility has already won him much acclaim and he no doubt has a very exciting future ahead of him. His accompanist Emma Arscott was also outstanding.

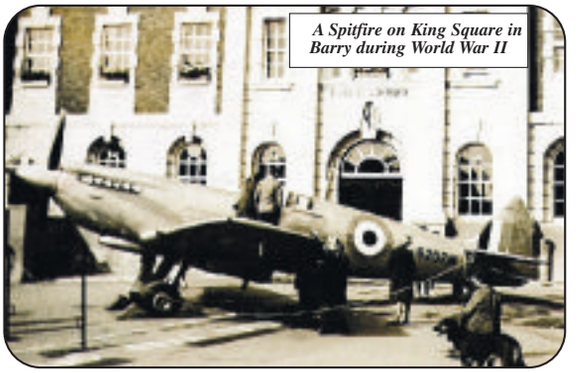
Looking at the faces of the audience and listening to their applause at the end of the concert, there was no doubting the fact that the Cowbridge Male Voice Choir's annual concert was a resounding success.

OLIVIA OBAID

ABOVE (left to right): Sandra Williams, Emma Arscott, Adam J Gilbert and Shelley Thomas-Brown.

Some of the civic guests.

Spitfire wings its way back for Wartime Weekend



A Spitfire on King Square in Barry during World War II

THE Wartime Weekend on Barry Waterfront and Barry Island Station on June 16-17 will see a full-size Spitfire fighter aircraft return to the town.

The Barry at War History Group has been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding to pay for the replica of this iconic aircraft to make its journey from Lytham St Annes.

Spokesman Dr Jonathan Hicks said: "We are very grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund for providing us with a grant to expand the scope of our Wartime Weekend. This funding means we can now pay tribute to the brave men and women of the RAF who served this country so valiantly throughout the Second World War.

"The full-size Spitfire will be the centrepiece of our WW2 RAF display. The Battle of Britain Pilots re-enactment group will be building a dispersal hut on the Hood Road site to complement the Spitfire, and for the first time in many years, the local public will be able to see a re-enactment of a Battle of Britain airfield.

"Barry and Penarth Air Cadets will also be in attendance and it will be a marvellous opportunity for them to sit in such an historic aircraft.

"During WW2 a real Spitfire was placed on King Square in Barry as part of a wartime fundraising drive and two plaques were later presented to the town. There was even a Spitfire named 'The Borough of Barry'."

During the Second World War, it was common place for individuals, towns, countries or representative groups of like minded people to 'buy' a piece of military hardware – fighter planes, bombers, tanks and so on.

The Ministry of War production set a nominal price for each type of equipment, which was less than the true production cost – but low enough to encourage take up of the idea, for morale purposes.

On June 7, 1943, a letter from the Minister of Aircraft production, Sir Stafford Cripps was received by the town clerk acknowledging a cheque for £5,112.

A photograph appeared in the local press on Friday, September 24, 1943, depicting the Borough of Barry Spitfire (a Mark Vb, serial W3234).

The Spitfire was presented to 611 (West Lancashire) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force. It is understood that the Spitfire survived the war and at the end of hostilities it was 'Struck off Charge' (SOC) 27-9-45, after which it was scrapped.

Battle of Britain Pilots is a Wiltshire based RAF re-enactment team who keep the spirit of The Few and the Battle of Britain alive for future generations.

They have designed and built an RAF 1940s Dispersal Hut which is completely kitted out inside as it would have looked in the summer of 1940, with all the equipment and personal kit of a Spitfire pilot.

Their team consists of pilots, ground-crew, WAAFs and female mechanics.

Sponsors wishing to make a donation towards the costs of staging the Wartime Weekend should contact Dr Jonathan Hicks on 07708 255295.

Win a night at the theatre !

DURING this summer of national celebration, theatres across the land have come together to promote the world-class productions taking place at some of their best-loved theatres.

As the famous torch snakes its way around the UK, Theatre Tokens are urging readers to experience a show in their local theatre as part of this summer like no other.

To join in the celebrations Theatre Tokens are offering you the chance to win a night out at the theatre to see a show of your choice.

With 240 venues nationwide there's bound to be something that you'll enjoy, either at your local theatre, or in London's West End.

You can buy Theatre Tokens from selected branches of WH Smith and Waterstones, participating theatres as well as online at www.theatretokens.com, or over the phone from Tokenline on 0844 887 7878.

Why not make this a summer like no other by entering the competition to win Theatre Tokens to a show of your choice.

To win one of three £50 tokens, just answer this question - how many Theatre Tokens venues are there in the UK: a) 200; b) 240; c) 260?

*Send your answers on a postcard, marked '**Theatre Competition**', along with your name, address and contact telephone number, to The Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday June 1.*

Judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. ***Good luck!***

DINAS CLUB WELCOMES THE OLYMPIC TORCH

MEMBERS of the Dinas Powys Lawn Tennis Club are planning to welcome the Olympic torch when it comes to the village at about 7am on Saturday (May 26).

They plan to line part of the route and hold up letters spelling out the name of their club, which was founded more than 100 years ago.

The Olympic torch is being carried through Dinas Powys by Rhys Jenkins from Penarth.

It overlooks the common and has 12 courts, a large clubhouse and car park.

The members organise a lively social programme, which this year includes an Olympian barbecue and fun events on July 21, to mark the start of the Olympics.

After their early start on Saturday, the tennis players will have breakfast at the club and then enjoy some mini Olympic games.

INDOOR BOOT SALE

THERE will be an indoor boot sale on Saturday, May 26, at St Athan Community Centre.

Sellers 12pm; public 1pm-4pm; hire a table, £4. Contact Carol on 01446 730100, or Ann on 01446 354179.

Tory MP voices support for local police officers

THE Home Secretary, Theresa May, recently received a frosty reception at the Police Federation Conference – over the 20 per cent budget cuts and proposed reforms – and Vale Conservative MP, Alun Cairns, says he has now written to her with his own concerns.

On May 10, Mr Cairns met local police officers from the Vale, as they joined the march through London in response to the Windsor Report and proposed changes to their terms and conditions of employment.

Hundreds of police officers from the Vale joined the demonstration to express the strength of feeling against some of the proposed changes.

Mr Cairns said: "I met the Police Federation Officer in Barry last month, and was pleased to meet a number of local officers based in the Vale, who attended the march.

"I have already raised their concerns with the Home Secretary, and will continue to keep up my dialogue with local officers to ensure that their issues are heard and fed into the consultation process following the Winsor Report.

"Policing is an essential public service, and I think that police officers should continue to be rewarded for the exceptional job they do."

The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

SUPPER AT THE CASTLE

A wealth of culinary talent comes to Fonmon!

OVER 100 guests were recently treated to a gourmet dining experience prepared by two of London's most celebrated Michelin-starred chefs Sian Wyn Owen, head chef at the River Cafe and Chris Gillard, head chef at St John, Smithfield.

Hosted in the beautiful setting of Fonmon Castle, guests enjoyed a first class, three-course meal and entertainment to raise money for the National Eisteddfod of Wales, to be held in the Vale this August.

Both Sian and Chris, originally from Cowbridge, prepared a feast of dishes from *Proscuitto di San Danielle* and *Finnochiata, Mozzarella di Buffala* to slow roast lamb shoulders with braised fennel and butter beans, Aioli and potatoes.

Canapés and cocktails were prepared by the highly-acclaimed Joe Rowson, head chef of one of Cowbridge's finest restaurants, Arboreal.

The event, co-hosted by singer Shân Cothi

and Stifyn Parri, TV presenter, featured the award winning Côr Dydd and jazz from DJ Andy Powell.

Elena Griffin, event organiser, said: "It was a fabulous evening which raised almost £5,000 for the Eisteddfod."

Swper yn y Castell – *Gwledd o dalent coginio yn dod i Gastell Fonmon!*

DAETH dros 100 o westeion i Gastell Fonmon dros y penwythnos i fwynhau gwledd o fwyd wedi ei baratoi gan dau o gogyddion disglair Llundain sef Sian Wyn Owen, prif gogydd y River Cafe a Chris Gillard, prif gogydd St John, Smithfield – y ddau yn ddeiliaid seren Michelin.

Paratowyd pryd tri chwrs gan Sian a Chris, y ddau yn enedigol o'r Bontfaen, ar gyfer y gwesteion gyda Canapes a choctels wedi eu paratoi gan Joe Rowson, prif gogydd bwyty Arboreal yn y Bontfaen.

Gyda'r gantores Shan Cothi a'r cyflwynydd Stifyn Parri yn cyflwyno'r noson cafwyd perfformiadau gwefreiddiol gan Côr Dydd a Andy Powell ac yn ôl Elena Griffin, trefnydd y noson: "*mi oedd o'n noson wych llwyddodd i godi bron £5,000 i'r Eisteddfod.*"

Welsh phrase of the week/Ymadrodd yr wythnos:
'Dwi'n dy garu di!' *(Dween dugh gary dee!), which means: 'I love you!'*

SIONED EDWARDS

WHAT'S ON - *in brief*

Net Cafe coffee talk

THE Net Cafe at Llantwit Major is hosting coffee community conversations, in partnership with Bethel Baptist from May 27, 6pm-8pm.

The purpose of the gatherings is to "build community through conversation," and each evening will have a topic for discussion.

Gardening hints

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday May 31 at 7pm in the Lesser Hall, when Mike Hallet will be giving a talk about 'Cowbrudge compost'.

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Scott Wroe Hearing Centre

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The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

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Diamond Jubilee Weekend
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Hat Competition - to be judged Monday 4th June at 6pm

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Children's Menu Available

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email: threehorseshoespse@sabrain.com

Jubilee for the Queen – and the whole of Britain

IN a few days' time, the United Kingdom will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee – marking the Queen's reign of 60 years.

The centrepiece of the celebrations takes place in a few days time – from Saturday, June 2 to Tuesday, June 5.

It is not the first time a British monarch has reached the illustrious milestone. The first Diamond Jubilee was celebrated by Queen Victoria in 1897.

Queen Elizabeth II acceded to the throne on February 6, 1952.

As Princess Elizabeth, she was on a royal tour of Kenya and staying at 'Treetops', a treehouse in Kenya's Aberdare National Park, when the course of British history was changed.

News reached the royal party that George VI had died in his sleep, and it led to the poetic line '*She went up the tree a Princess and came down a Queen*'.

The tour was abandoned and the Princess flew back to Britain, to be greeted by the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill.

In our hectic 21st century age, it seems astonishing that the Queen's coronation did not take place for more than a year. She was crowned on June 2, 1953 at Westminster Abbey.

Since that time, the Queen has honoured her coronation oath – serving not just the people of the United Kingdom, but also serving 16 other Commonwealth countries as head of state.

Silver and Golden Jubilees were held in 1977 and 2002 respectively.

Now we are approaching the central weekend of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. *So what is planned?*

On Saturday, June 2 the Queen will join racegoers on the Epsom Downs for the Derby.

The next day, June 3, the 'Big Jubilee Lunch' event takes place. Building on the already popular Big Lunch initiative, people are encouraged to share lunch with neighbours and friends as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

It may take the form of a traditional street party, or a picnic lunch in small or larger groups. The event is being organised by The Big Lunch and details are available online atwww.the-biglunch.com/.

The Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant takes place on the Thames and consists of up to 1,000 boats assembled from across the UK, the Commonwealth and around the world.

The Queen will travel in the Royal Barge which will lead the flotilla.

On Monday, June 4, there is a BBC concert at Buckingham Palace, and the line-up includes Jessie J, JLS, Sir Elton John, Sir Tom Jones and Sir Paul McCartney.

The concert will take place in front of the palace, with the stage around the Victoria Monument and there will be seating for up to 20,000 people.

Late in the evening, between 10pm and 10.30pm, Jubilee beacons will be lit across the country. The Queen will light the National Beacon in central London.

On Tuesday, June 5, a service of thanksgiving and carriage procession takes place. The serivice is being held at St Paul's Cathedral.

Commonwealth nations are also holding their own Jubilee events.

Shops in Barry – such as Dr Bob's in High Street – are already getting the bunting and displays out in preparation for the Jubilee.

Jubilee street parties in the Bridgend borough

JUBILEE street parties will take place in Bridgend county borough as follows:

Aldenham Road, Porthcawl (from 1-17 Aldenham Road) on June 4; Bristol Street, Aberkenfig (from1-14 Bristol Street) on June 4; Brynglas Terrace, Caerau (from 1-25 Brynglas Terrace) on June 4; Caer Cynffig, North Cornelly (from 1-25 Caer Cynffig) on June 5; Caer Wetral, Kenfig Hill (from 1-11, Caer Wetral) on June 4; Craiglas, Llangeinor (from 1-38, Craiglas) on June 2; De Clare Close, Porthcawl (from 6-14, De Clare Close) on June 5; De Londres Close, Porthcawl (from 1-16, De Londres Close) on June 3 or 4; Esplanade Avenue, Porthcawl (from junction of Blundell Avenue to Pavillion Court access) on June 4; Ffynnon Wen, North Cornelly (from cul-de-sac from 21-51 Ffynnon Wen) on June 4; Grove Road, Bridgend (from 10-84 Grove Road) on June 3; Heol West Plas, Coity (from junction of Heol yr Eglwys to junction of Heol yr Eglwys) on June 3 or 4; Lewis Avenue, Bridgend (from 1-13 Lewis Avenue) on June 5; Llwyn Bedw, Pencoed (from 5-17 Llwyn Bedw) on June 4; Mayfield Avenue, Laleston (grass verge from 21-31 Mayfield Avenue) on June 5; St Christopher's Road, Bridgend (from 46-52 St Christopher's Road) on June 4; St Michaels Road, Porthcawl (17 St Michaels Road) on June 5; The Dell, Bryncethin (from 1-12 The Dell) on June 3; Woodside Avenue, Litchard (whole road) on June 3.

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Sunday 3rd June
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CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

ABOVE: MAKING BUNTING

Cowbridge set for a right royal party!

NEVER a town to miss an opportunity to celebrate, Cowbridge is planning 'The BIG Cowbridge Community Jubilee Celebration' on Tuesday, June 5 from 1pm until 5pm.

St Hilary and Llanblethian are also holding events later on, so that the celebrations can extend over the whole weekend.

Cowbridge Library has a 'design a bunting' competition for 4-12 year olds, which will be displayed in the library, and the closing date for the competition is Saturday (May 26).

As the BIG community event covers three venues, bunting is needed, and several people have started making it!

The venues are The Old Hall Gardens, The Physic Garden and Church Street.

All local groups are invited to take part in the Jubilee celebrations, there are opportunities to have exhibit, run a stall or to showcase musical, or other talents.

We invite people to come along and join in the festivities.

Festivities start at 1pm with stalls in Old Hall grounds, as well as crafts, crown making, willow garland weaving, hat 'upcycling,' at 1.30pm there will be a taste of buggy exercise.

At around 2.15pm, there will be maypole dancing to watch and join in.

Throughout the afternoon, there will be music, storytelling and guided walks and talks on the physic garden, town walls, and transition gardens. The bell ringers will ring a full peal of bells from Holy Cross tower.

At 3.15pm, a procession will start, led by trumpets and an alternative king and queen to Church Street, where the street tea party will commence at 3.30pm. We are very grateful to the residents of Church Street who have given consent to the road closure for the afternoon so that the party can go ahead.

The tea party will be a bring and share event, so please bring a plate of sandwiches and or cake to share and a tea cup!

Entertainment will follow the tea party with music in Church Street.

There is definitely something for everyone and the party will draw to a close at around 5pm, when any help clearing up will be welcomed!

So to take part in this 'majestic' event! Just turn up on the 5th, it is all free of charge; but to perform, run a stall or exhibit, please contact Sue on 01446 775947, or email Cowbridge.jubilee@gmail.com **SF**

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Saturday 16th June - Soul Singer Genine 8.30pm
Saturday 23rd June - Dansette 8.30pm
Saturday 30th June - Smoking Aces 8.30pm
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This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of history and celebrate the Olympic Flame coming to

the Vale of Glamorgan

On Saturday 26th May, between 7am and 8:50am, the Olympic flame will be carried through Dinas Powys, Barry and Barry Island. Come and line the streets and cheer on the local Torchbearers!

It's our moment to shine

london2012.com/olympictorchrelay

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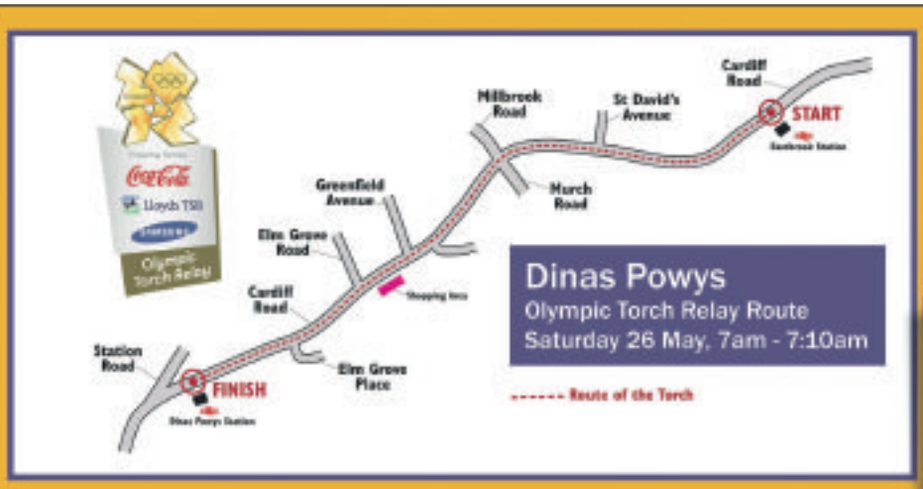

Suzie Collins

Sean Allen

Harry Carter

Torchbearers

Around 30 inspirational local people have been selected to carry the flame, each running for 300m. They have all been given the honour in recognition of their achievements in life and the impact they have made in their communities. Some of them are charity champions, some are inspiring children to get involved in sport, while others are to be admired for the way they have overcome adversity.

Some high-profile torchbearers may also be carrying the flame. You can read the stories behind the Vale's torchbearers online at **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/olympics**. You can also keep up to date with all the news, including on the day of the Torch Relay by following **@valesportsnews** on Twitter.

Pupils from Barry Island Primary School will be among those giving the flame a huge welcome this Saturday!

Torch Route Timings

Dinas Powys

07:00 - Starts on Cardiff Road alongside Eastbrook Train Station.
07:10 - Finishes on Cardiff Road alongside Dinas Powys Train Station.

Barry and Barry Island

07:16 - Starts on Cardiff Road at junction with Palmerston Road.
07:24 - Turns right under the bridge on to Gladstone Road.
07:27 - Turns left on to Holton Road for uphill section.
07:35 - Passes along pedestrian zone of Holton Road.
07:44 - Continues on to Broad Street and passes Barry Station.
07:55 - Veers left on to Harbour Road.
08:05 - Continues on to Station Approach Road next to Barry Island Station.
08:07 - Relay turns right on to Friars Road.
08:09 - Relay turns right on to Paget Road and then back on to Harbour Road.
08:17 - Steep uphill on St Nicholas' Road.
08:23 - Relay reaches Park Crescent.
08:26 - Relay continues on to Jenner Road.
08:35 - Turns left on to Colcot Road and passes Barry College and Barry Hospital.
08:47 - Turns right on to Port Road East.
08:50 - Finishes on Port Road East at junction with Pleasant View.

Please note that these timings are estimates and may change slightly on the day.

Line the streets!

Please note that the Olympic Torch will be in convoy mode between 7:10am and 7:16am, and the flame will not be visible during that time. Slight delays are expected as the torchbearers make their way through the towns. Any inconvenience and disruption for businesses and residents will be kept to a minimum as road closures are timed to follow the torch on its route.

Spectators who are driving are advised to make sure they plan ahead and arrive at their destinations in plenty of time to avoid being caught up in these traffic arrangements so that they don't miss the torch passing through.

Free Family Events

Following the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay, two free family events are being held by the Vale of Glamorgan Council to keep the Olympic spirit in full flow for the rest of the day. A free Beach Sports Party will be held at Barry Island between 9am and 2pm where you can see some sporty demonstrations such as football freestyling and have a go at a series of Olympic sports including beach volleyball and basketball. Further Olympic sports such as fencing and tennis will also be on offer at a Street Olympics morning on King Square, Barry town centre, between 9am and 12pm. To find out more please call Sarah Jones on 01446 704737.

VALE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

FULL RESULTS FROM MAY 3

*** Labour - 22 * Welsh Conservatives - 11 * Independents - 3 * Llantwit First Independents - 4 * Plaid - 6 * UKIP - 1**

BARUC

AVIET-FRASSINELLI	Julie	Welsh Lab	421	
BAKER	Paul George	Welsh Conservatives	512	
EVANS	Barrie	Independent	471	
FOURACRE	Dominic Lewis	Welsh Conservatives	444	
HODGES	Nicholas Peter	Plaid	776	ELECTED
TRICKEY	Michael	Welsh Lab	498	
WILIAM	Steffan Trefor	Plaid	800	ELECTED

BUTTRILLS

ALEXANDER	Margaret	Welsh Lab	742	ELECTED
BLAKEMAN	Stephen	Plaid	388	
BURLEY	Thomas Douglas	Welsh Conservatives	197	
EGAN	Stuart	Welsh Lab	690	ELECTED
GREEN	David Jonathan	Independent	138	
HARVEY	Michael Raymond	Welsh Conservatives	172	
JOHNSON	Ian James	Plaid	420	

CADOC

BERTIN	Rob	Independent	387	
BRUCE	Gillian	Welsh Conservatives	450	
BRYANT	Martin Geoffrey	Plaid	289	
BUMFORD	Andrew John	Plaid	271	
BURNS	Dawn Marie	Welsh Conservatives	259	
DAVIES	Lewis Jordan	Welsh Conservatives	442	
JOHNSON	Fred	Labour	1108	ELECTED
MOORE	Anne	Labour	1143	ELECTED
MOORE	Neil	Labour	1105	ELECTED
ROWLANDS	Leighton	Welsh Conservatives	422	

CASTLELAND

DRAKE	Pamela	Labour	683	ELECTED
ELMORE	Chris	Labour	718	ELECTED
SHAW	Barry	Plaid	377	
STOCKDALE	Keith	Plaid	347	
TRAHERNE	Sophie	Welsh Conservatives	78	
VIDAL	Sadie	Welsh Conservatives	83	

CORNERSWELL

BIRCH	Rhiannon	Labour	796	ELECTED
CHICK	Damian	Liberal Democrats	64	
FRASER	John	Welsh Conservatives	376	
JAMES	Luke	Plaid	308	
KING	Peter	Labour	698	ELECTED
LEWIS	Osian	Plaid	282	
TURNER	Dorothy	Welsh Conservatives	350	

COURT

BERTIN	Richard	Independent	487	ELECTED
BROOKS	Bronwen	Labour	610	ELECTED
KEMP	Harriet	Welsh Conservatives	116	
KHAN	Wahid	Plaid	93	
LAWRENCE	John	Plaid	136	
MORRIS	Brian	Labour	461	
WIGNALL	Jonathan	Welsh Conservatives	89	

COWBRIDGE

BEAVEN	Camilla	Labour	920	
COX	Geoffrey	Welsh Conservatives	1334	ELECTED
JARVIE	Thomas	Welsh Conservatives	1232	ELECTED
LLEWELLYN-MORGAN	Huw	Plaid	572	
PARKER	Andrew	Welsh Conservatives	1188	ELECTED
STILL	Alex	Labour	854	

DINAS POWYS

DAVIES	Jill	Labour	602	
DAVIES	Terry	Labour	537	
DRISCOLL	Vince	Welsh Conservatives	1122	
FOXWELL	Robert	Welsh Conservatives	1035	
FRANKS	Christopher	Plaid	1515	ELECTED
GILLIGAN	Wendy	Labour	522	
HARTREY	Valerie	Plaid	1418	ELECTED
HATTON	Keith	Plaid	1265	ELECTED
ROBERTSON	Andrew	Welsh Conservatives	970	
STREETER	Nigel	Welsh Conservatives	1007	
WILLIAMS	Christopher	Plaid	1223	ELECTED
WILLIAMS	John	Labour	499	

DYFAN

COLLINS	Amelia	Plaid	135	
CURTIS	Claire	Labour	839	ELECTED
KEMP	Katherine	Welsh Conservatives	572	
POWELL	Anthony	Labour	755	ELECTED
WILLIAMS	Robert	Plaid	123	
WRIGHT	Marguerita	Welsh Conservatives	618	

GIBBONSDOWN

BROWN	Marilyn	Plaid	73	
CURTIS	Rob	Labour	787	ELECTED
DAVIES	Julia	Welsh Conservatives	102	
HARKUS	Dennis	Independent	301	
HEATHFIELD	Jeffrey	Independent	300	
HUGHES	David	Welsh Conservatives	105	
ROSSER	Ingrid	Plaid	76	
WILKINSON	Margaret	Labour	754	ELECTED

ILLTYD

BALL	David	Plaid	267	
CHARLES	Janice	Welsh Conservatives	612	
DONOVAN	John	Independent	545	
DRYSDALE	John	Labour	745	ELECTED
HAMILTON	Howard	Labour	883	ELECTED
HAMPTON	Tony	Welsh Conservatives	639	
HODGES	Shirley Ann	Plaid	226	
LONGSTAFF	Kevin	Plaid	162	
OSBORNE	James	Independent	475	
PROBERT	Rhona	Labour	726	ELECTED
WILLIAMS	Emlyn	Welsh Conservatives	599	
EDMUNDS	Kate	Labour	374	ELECTED
GRAY	Ben	Welsh Conservatives	178	
THOMAS	Steven	Plaid	74	

LLANDOUGH

BELLIN	Wynford	Plaid	193	
SILVAN EVANS	Jean	Labour	219	
THOMAS	Ray	Welsh Conservatives	577	ELECTED

LLANDOW/EWENNY

AUSTIN	Ralph	Welsh Conservatives	759	
BATCHELOR	Matthew	Labour	471	
BEECH	Amy	Labour	502	
CLIFFORD	John	Welsh Conservatives	813	
DENMAN	Katie	Labour	411	
DOWNE	Russell	Welsh Conservatives	544	
GANT	Bob	Welsh Conservatives	536	
GEARY	Keith	Llantwit First Ind	1327	ELECTED
HACKER	Eric	Llantwit First Ind	1603	ELECTED
JOHN	Gwyn	Llantwit First Ind	2068	ELECTED
PRICE	Graham	Labour	541	
STEPHENS	Dafydd	Plaid	269	
WILLIAMS	Edward	Llantwit First Ind	1490	ELECTED

LLANTWIT MAJOR

GILHOOLY	Eileen	Labour	223	
TRAHERNE	Rhodri	Welsh Conservatives	653	ELECTED

PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY

ALEXANDER	Tracey	Labour	598	
CLUBB	Sandra	Plaid	202	
ELLIS	David	Liberal Democrats	153	
JONES	Marc	Plaid	202	
KELLY OWEN	Maureen	Welsh Conservatives	939	ELECTED
RAPIER	Philip	Labour	547	
WILLIAMS	Clive	Welsh Conservatives	939	ELECTED

PLYMOUTH

CLARKE	Philip	Independent	882	ELECTED
FAULKNER	Damian	Labour	713	
JAMES	Jeff	Welsh Conservatives	810	ELECTED
KEMP	Gordon Christopher	Welsh Conservatives	727	

RHOOSE

THOMAS	John	Welsh Conservatives	435	ELECTED
TOKER	Sandra	Labour	311	

ST ATHAN

APGLYN	Niclas	Plaid	217	
BURNETT	Lis	Labour	887	ELECTED
CHURCH	Paul	Welsh Conservatives	622	
ROBERTS	Gwyn	Labour	781	ELECTED
SLAUGHTER	Anthony	Green Party	280	
WILLIAMS	Sophie	Welsh Conservatives	615	
WILTON	David	Plaid	193	

ST AUGUSTINE'S

BOWERS	Eric	Labour	254	
PRESTON	Audrey	Welsh Conservatives	480	ELECTED
ROGERS	Neil	Green Party	172	

ST BRIDES MAJOR

BIRCH	Janice	Labour	666	ELECTED
LLOYD	Ken	Welsh Conservatives	309	
ROPER	Adrian	Plaid	152	
WILLIAMS	Christopher	Welsh Conservatives	294	
WILSON	Mark	Labour	651	ELECTED

STANWELL

ERNEST	Anthony	Welsh Conservatives	342	
HARDY	Paula	Labour	330	
MAHONEY	Kevin	UKIP	633	ELECTED
MIRZA-DAVIES	Carolyn	Plaid	148	
PENROSE	Bob	Independent	876	ELECTED
SHARPE	Sarah	Welsh Conservatives	342	

SULLY

BIRD	Jonathan	Welsh Conservatives	599	ELECTED
NATARAJAN	Kalpana	Labour	217	

WENVOE

Walking festival in rural Vale was a great success!

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with Alan Wilson and the Castle, Court and Wells walkers.

WITH the sun shining for the full three days of the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival, the Castle, Court and Wells Walk was well supported on Sunday, May 13, with 27 walkers joining up under Valeways Trustee Alan Wilson's leadership.

Jane Hutt AM joined the walk, which started at Cowbridge car park behind the Town Hall.

Many of the walkers had not enjoyed the pleasures of the Penllyn Estate and were "delighted" with the walk.

The AM said: "It is wonderful that Valeways has organised this walking festival following the success of last year, with the volunteer walk leaders and supporters working hard throughout the weekend to give so many people such enjoyable walks in the beautiful Vale countryside.

"Well done to all who organised the festival and thank you from all of us who enjoyed taking part!"

Penarth Computer Club – *what next?*

YOU cannot have missed the launch of Facebook onto the stock market, turning Mark Zuckerberg into a multi-billionaire at the age of 28.

He is now one of the richest 25 people in the world; in eight years from setting up the company it has grown to serve 900 million users.

We must recognise that the spread of computers means we have to adjust our behaviour or suffer some unintended consequences. Take care when putting personal details on any social network site. (Identity theft; teenage party gate-crashers and so on).

Computers cannot be blamed for problems due to inappropriate use, just as car accidents are frequently due to poor driving, rather than the car itself.

The computer's 'black box' capability is available in cars. Car based computers can contribute to safer journeys. They can sound an alarm if the driver's eyelids droop due to tiredness. They can ensure that brakes do not lock and so help a controlled stop.

They can detect if the car is straying across lane markings and they can record information about what the engine is doing and what the dashboard instruments are showing.

It is now possible for such information to identify the root cause of an accident to be an individual's poor driving – with legal consequences.

If a driver uses a Sat-Nav that shows where the safety cameras are, at what point does society infer that this facility means that the driver is happy to exceed the legal speed limit as long as s/he will not get caught?

As a counterbalance, computers on main roads are being used to check average speeds over a long distance.

All these things give rise to privacy issues and cries of "Big Brother". Nevertheless, computers make more restrictive legislation easier to enforce, Number plate recognition means that valid insurance, MOT certification and road tax can be verified automatically.

If you buy a car with a keyless system for entry and ignition, be aware: manufacturers are combating a device that can be plugged into the diagnostic port and get the car's on-board computer to programme a chip in a blank fob and hence take control of the car. Be sure the car locks engage properly when you leave it. At least the criminals must break in first.

On a lighter note, if have an iPad, a case is on the market that means you can always make notes no matter how flat the battery – use the pen provided to write on the paper pad set into the cover that protects the screen. Nice touch, that. (Google 'Booqpad') .

And news that scientists can now 'unprint' a sheet of paper by using a laser to vaporise the toner forming the letters without ruining the paper for re-use, saving trees and carbon emissions. Whatever next?

The next meeting is on Tuesday, June 12 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 8pm. We shall review our year so far and ask if we can do better. For more information, call 02920 708439.

HOWARD DESMOND, Chairman

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Planning to buy a used car? Top tips shared!

SO you've been saving your pennies and are in the market for a second hand car – unfortunately, it is all too easy to buy a car that has hidden faults or problems! Help yourself to avoid these pitfalls by reading this article!

Always start the process of buying a used car with research. If you're in the market for a certain brand of car, research the vehicle type on the internet to find out the common problems, so that you can look for them when you go to see a car.

Also, research the trader selling the car you're considering; think about it, if a car sales forecourt advertises that they also do other services, such as mileage correction for example, the car may have been tampered with.

Similarly with those that offer DPF removal, it is worth checking whether you are buying a car that has had DPF issues; if the DPF has been removed, you may have emission issues in the future.

Another to watch out for is remapping; a non-standard map could cause issues in the future.

Therefore, you should always research the garage you are planning to buy the car from before handing over your hard earned cash.

There are some simple things to do that will help you to find the right car at the right price:

Service history is more vital than you think – The longevity of an engine depends on the maintenance it has received.

Ask how many owners it's had – Lots of owners means less value!

How clean is the engine bay? – If it's filthy it hasn't been serviced properly; leaves and grime are a sign that the car hasn't been looked after very well.

Always pull the dipstick for yourself – Check the colour of the oil and the smell; it shouldn't be black or smell burnt. Also check for emulsion (mayonnaise style substance) on the oil cap, this could be an indication of overheating problems.

Check the tyres – Inspect the tyres for uneven wear; the car may need balancing and tracking or new tyres – not a big deal but something to negotiate on the price.

How many keys are being supplied? – It's not always easy to have a second key cut or programmed; on most modern cars it's expensive and in some cases a main dealer-only job. Insist that the trader supplies you with a second key as part of the sale.

Look closely at the bodywork – Check the joins of the panels for uneven or out of sync gaps; this could be a tell-tale sign that the car has had bodywork repairs in its past, it could even be an unrecorded accident-damaged vehicle.

A good test is to run a pound coin down the gap and see if the gap remains the same the whole way down.

Hidden faults and gremlins – Have an independent code scan within a week or two of buying the car before your warranty expires; a clever trader will have cleared the fault codes before you bought the car but a current fault is likely to throw a code within a week of driving.

Most garages offer a code scan these days; just make sure you pick a garage that isn't a trader so that they are unbiased.

Never trust a car trader – No matter how nice he may seem, how friendly and how honest; remember that it's his job to sell you the car and that his bonus depends on it, so he's bound to exaggerate the good and skip over anything else!

Be sceptical and trust your gut instinct – Question everything and if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

CLAIRE NICHOLLS, PERMOVEO

Menter y Fro appoints new business chief

KEVIN DAVIES has been appointed business manager of Menter y Fro, which promotes the Welsh language in the Vale.

He was chief executive of Menter Iaith Rhondda Cynon Taf, a sister organisation.

Kevin comes from a farming family in Pembrokeshire and has worked for television and radio, both as a producer and presenter.

Menter y Fro is part of a network of organisations around Wales supporting and promoting the use of Welsh in their particular area.

Kevin said: "Bearing in mind that the National Eisteddfod, which takes place this year in the Vale, is only just round the corner, I foresee an exciting and promising future for the Welsh language in the area. It is inevitable that there will be even more demand for opportunities to use Welsh as a result, and I am very keen to help Menter y Fro meet this demand."

To find out more about the activities of Menter y Fro, visit the website: www.menteryfro.com or phone 01446 720600.

Menter y Fro yn pendoi swyddog busnes

MAE Kevin Davies wedi cael ei benodi yn swyddog busnes Menter y Fro, y fenter iaith ar gyfer Bro Morgannwg. Mae Kevin yn dod â llawer o brofiad gyda fe fel prif weithredwr Menter Iaith Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Un o deulu ffermio yn Sir Benfro yw Kevin, ac mae e wedi gweithio i'r teledu ac i'r radio, yn gynhyrchydd ac yn gyflwynydd fel ei gilydd.

Mae Menter y Fro yn bodoli er mwyn hybu a chefnogi defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg ym Mro Morgannwg.

Meddai Kevin: "O gofio bod yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol ar y gorwel ym Mro Morgannwg, rwy'n gweld dyfodol cyffrous a disglair i'r iaith Gymraeg yn y sir. Mae'n anochel y bydd hyd yn oed mwy o alw am gyfleoedd i ddefnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg o'r herwydd, ac rwy'n awyddus iawn i helpu Menter y Fro gwrdd â'r galw hwn."

I wybod mwy am weithgarwch Menter y Fro, ewch i'r wefan: www.menteryfro.com

LLANMIHANGEL, peaceful present, but a chilling past!

THE quiet village of Llanmihangel is a small settlement 2½ miles from Cowbridge, which dates back to the medieval period.

The village's appearance confuses, as it is a world apart from modern-day living, and has been classed as 'taking a step back in time'.

Llanmihangel is first documented in 1166 as a grange area and in the possession of John Norrays. Its stunning Grade II listed church, which is still lit up at night using oil lamps and candles, was first recorded in 1254 and built with Norman foundations.

Dedicated to St Michael and All Angels, it is furnished with a small font, stone benches in the porch, and a harmonium for musical accompaniment.

The church has a sense of peace and tranquility in its secluded surroundings. An 18th Century silver chalice is set on the south wall, and a holy well which was restored in 1707 by Sir Humphrey Edwin before his death in the same year.

Sir Humphrey's monument is set within the church, with his son Samuel (died 1722) and grandson, Charles, buried beside him

Plas Llanmihangel was a fortified manor house. But evidence of its earlier existence was found in relation to the church which was constructed to serve the owners of the manor during ancient times.

Prior to Sir Humphrey's occupation of the manor, the Thomas family had been living at Plas Llanmihangel during the 15th Century. They had links with the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke. Leirez Thomas Ddu of Baglan made considerable changes to the manor during 16th Century, and it was during the outbreak of the Civil War that the estate accumulated extensive debt and the manor was sold to Sir Humphrey Edwin.

It was during 16th Century that the house was extended. Sir Humphrey was an upstanding citizen of the community, a wealthy nouveau-riche merchant and Lord Mayor of London.

He was knighted by King James II in 1697, and chosen as the Sheriff of London and Middlesex and Prince of Orange, (1690) before retiring live within the manor house in this charming village.

The beautiful gardens were his idea, and he named them 'The William and Mary Gardens', which included evergreens, orchards, and lines of yew trees with a pond.

The gardens are Grade II listed in the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Interest in Wales. The grand garden once had a well and over 100 trimmed yew trees, in line with the fashion of the late 17th Century.

Today, just over 53 inhabitants live in the area, and Plas Llanmihangel is now a guest house.

Legendary tales from the turn of 15th Century relate to witchcraft and its 'evil' magic potions. It is thought that during those dark times of desperation where hope came to folk in the form of such tonics, a local heiress was labelled a witch.

Hunted out by locals, they thrust an iron ring around her waist to single her out as 'evil', leading to her suicidal death by drowning in the pool. Her hazy image has been seen rising up from the depths of the water, only to disappear at the blink of an eye.

Could this ghostly apparition be the 'Lady of the Ring' the legendary heiress who took her earthly life away from misery?

The mystifying figure of a little green man with piercing green eyes conceals himself amongst the trees, hoping to prey on passers by. What could this frightful image be, and where would he have originated from?

The misty vision of another lady with long flowing locks has been identified walking around the woodland, particularly during stormy weather. She seems to dash hurriedly amongst the trees before vanishing into thin air.

But why would this ghostly person want to seek shelter in a world beyond her realm from a paradise beyond our understanding?

Haunting screams have been heard bellowing out from the hillside at the dead of night, yet no physical person is known to perform these chilling sounds.

Could this deafening echo be a chilling reminder of the perils of our past, or just tricks of the imagination?

Fact or fiction? Only you can decide…

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Lafarge provide Eisteddfod boost

Left to right: Lafarge s Ewenny quarry manager Roger Sheppard, Eisteddfod chief executive Elfed Roberts and Lafarge s Aberthaw Works manager James Kirkpatrick.

A MAJOR donation from construction materials company Lafarge is helping National Eisteddfod organisers keep 'on track' in the build-up to this year's festival at Llandow.

Through a partnership between Lafarge's cement works at Aberthaw and its stone quarry at Ewenny near Bridgend, the company is donating over £10,000 worth of stone for the construction of the road and access ways around the Maes, establishing Lafarge as one of the major 'gold' sponsors.

Eisteddfod chief executive explained: "We are delighted that Lafarge has come on board as a major sponsor and partner.

"This donation of material and the expertise Lafarge brings with it in terms of the use of the stone, will make a major difference to the event, especially with our unpredictable Welsh weather!"

Aberthaw Works manager James Kirkpatrick adds: "In addition to providing the material with which to construct the main site road, we will also have a presence in the Eisteddfod Science Pavilion.

"This will give us an opportunity to demonstrate the science behind Lafarge's manufacturing processes and raise the profile of construction materials as an important industry for the future."

For more information go to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk.

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(TELEPHONE: 01656 725219)***

Help May find a home!

THIS WEEK: MAY is an eight-year-old Shar Pei cross. She is a fun-loving girl, who loves a fuss off those closest to her.

She can be a little wary of new people, but once she trusts you she is a friend for life.

She gets on with other dogs, and enjoys a run in the field with her friends, but would prefer to be the only dog in the home so she can be the centre of attention!

May is on medication for an eye condition, Dogs Trust will help with her medical bills for this.

She can live with children aged eight and over.

If you would like to offer May a home, please pop in to Dogs Trust Bridgend, Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG, or call: 01656 725219.

AFC Colcot are the champions!

AFC COLCOT were crowned champions of the Vale of Glamorgan amateur football league premier division with one game to spare last weekend after an outstanding display against Rhoose-based rivals Cardiff Airport.

It was the third encounter between the teams in as many weeks, with both sides meeting in the finals of the ASRS Cup and Barry Cup respectively. Colcot had drawn first blood in the trilogy of clashes as they ran out 1-0 winners of the ASRS cup, with a 30-yard free-kick from defender Shane Campbell the only difference in an otherwise tight affair.

However, Airport would only have to wait a week to get their revenge as they overcame a two goal deficit at Jenner Park to defeat Colcot 4-2 in the final of the prestigious Barry Cup.

The third fixture was destined to be a real humdinger of a tie, with Airport knowing that they needed at least a win to keep their hopes of winning the league alive, and Colcot knowing that a win for them would make it a mathematical impossibility to be caught at the top of the league, hence making them champions.

There was a lot at stake, and the game didn't disappoint!

It only took six minutes for the deadlock to be broken – and in extraordinary fashion. Some excellent interlinking play along the right flank between Nathan Donnelly and Ryan Lawlor saw the latter deliver the ball in to his brother, Daniel Lawlor, who adjusted his body at the edge of the penalty area to meet the cross with an overhead kick.

Cardiff Airport's goalkeeper hardly moved as the ball flew into the bottom right corner and it was 1-0 to Colcot.

Cardiff Airport looked rattled, but from the restart they immediately looked to level the scoreline – and they didn't have to wait long, as on ten minutes they found the net with a looping shot which defied Colcot 'keeper Matty Evans to find the net.

Colcot drove forward in numbers as they sought to regain the lead, and on 39 minutes they did. Once again, some fine work along the right-hand flank saw the ball delivered in to Daniel Lawlor, whose headed-flick fell to his attacking colleague Nathan Donnelly to drive home from close-range for 2-1 Colcot.

Uplifted, the home side then added to their lead two minutes later as Airport conceded a foul in the Colcot half.

AFC Colcot celebrate one of the club s greatest ever seasons.

The resulting free kick was taken by Shane Campbell, who stroked the ball almost 60 yards into Cardiff Aiport's penalty area with deadly accuracy.

The ball was met by Osborne, who rose taller than his Airport counterparts to head the ball into the top right corner with aplomb.

Colcot looked confident, and on 70 minutes they extended their lead to 4-1 after some fine attacking play as David Kavanagh thumped the ball from almost 30 yards into the bottom right corner.

From the restart, Cardiff Airport continued to push forward in an attempt to re-establish a presence within the tie, and on 75 minutes their efforts were rewarded with a penalty.

Airport converted the spot-kick to narrow the scoreline to 4-2.

At the final whistle, the victorious Colcot players, managers and fans were typically vociferous in their celebrations, making no secret of their delight in having secured their status as champions of the Vale of Glamorgan Premier Division.

Man of the match: Geraint Osborne.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00443/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Convert an existing Grade 2 terraced property comprising of 3 dwellings into a pair of semi detached dwellings and extension to side
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, 2 and 3, The Butts, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00455/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of existing retail premises to 1 No. 4 bed townhouse, and construction of 4 no. 3 bed townhouses in existing service yard/carpark, all with associated car parking and private amenity space, in a secure gated Mews Development
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Post Office, 61/63, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Cowbridge

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00446/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Convert an existing Grade 2 terraced property comprising of three dwellings into a pair of semi detached dwellings and extension to side
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, 2 & 3, The Butts, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00452/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion and repair to Cornmill and Barn for conversion of barns to holiday let accommodation
Location:/Lleoliad: Llanmihangel Cornmill and Barn, Llanmihangel
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade I

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00463/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: To remove remains of infilling wall and replace with gates to make way for a parking space
Location:/Lleoliad: Plymouth House East, Dimlands Road, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00327/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Waste recovery and recycling process or processes in respect of motor vehicles, refrigerators, computers and allied items
Location:/Lleoliad: The Mill, Chapel Farm, Port Road, Rhoose

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00455/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Conversion of existing retail premises to 1 No. 4 bed townhouse, and construction of 4 no. 3 bed townhouses in existing service yard/carpark, all with associated car parking and private amenity space, in a secure gated Mews Development
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Post Office, 61/63, Eastgate, Cowbridge

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**
Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Dated: 24th May, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry.
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 24 Mai, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri.
CF63 4RT

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 – Section 82

VACANCY FOR LAY MEMBER OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Do you want to know more about the way the Vale of Glamorgan Council's finances operate?

Could you offer a strong and independent voice on the Council's financial affairs?

Are you interested in local government and want to play a role in scrutinising how it works?

The Vale of Glamorgan Council is looking for a citizen to sit as an independent member of its Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is important because it:

- **reviews, scrutinises and issues reports and recommendations in relation to the Council's financial affairs**
- **reviews, scrutinises and issues reports and recommendations on the Authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements**
- **oversees its audit arrangements and reviews its financial statements.**

It is also possible that other relevant functions will be given to its Audit Committee.

The Council wants to appoint one lay member, with the initial appointment to be for a period of 12 months. Applications are invited from anyone who would be interested in this position. In order to be eligible applicants should:

- **be independent of the Council**
- **recognise and understand the value of the audit function**
- **have no business connection with the Council**
- **have knowledge of how local government functions**
- **display independence of thinking and unbiased attitudes.**

When making the appointment, the Council will consider:

- **your political independence**
- **your ability to meet the time commitment involved**
- **your ability to understand and weigh up evidence**
- **your understanding of local government.**

If you believe you meet the above requirements and are interested in becoming a lay member of the Audit Committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Council you should forward a letter of application "In Confidence" to the Council's Monitoring Officer at the address below explaining your suitability for the post, together with two references by no later than 8th June, 2012. All applications will be judged on merit. Individuals who previously expressed an interest will be considered, subject to the submission of a letter of application and references.

The successful candidate will be entitled to receive a daily fee of £198 (£99 for half day) for attending meetings of the Audit Committee (payments to be capped at a maximum of ten full days per year).

The Council is an equal opportunities employer and provider of services and welcomes applications from women, young people, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities.

It is intended that interviews will take place in June 2012. The successful applicant will be expected to take up their appointment immediately.

The Monitoring Officer
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry

Tough grading for Rising Sun

RECENTLY, 10 students from the Rising-Sun Kyokushin Karate Club took part in a grading at Aberdare Sports Centre.

They endured a gruelling three hours, and seven of the students were successful in passing to their next grade.

Senior students Tom Dalton attained 10th kyu and Des Brown 7th kyu. The junior students Max Ladner and Maddie Barratt (10th kyu), Ciaron Kerr (9th kyu), George Cocks (7th kyu) and Gabe Brown (6th kyu).

After completing the day's events, the majority of the club went away with a feeling of achievement, and some knowing that extra hard work was needed at the dojo for the next grading in July.

The club's two instructors, brothers Lee and Spencer Bennett, will both be competing abroad within the next couple of weeks. Sempai Spencer Bennett will fight at the Yambug Cup in Russia and the top prize is 10,000 Euros.

Spencer said: "This will be my toughest test so far. It doesn't get any harder in our sport than going to Russia to fight full contact Kyokushin. The Russians in our sport are like machines and just keep going and going!"

Sensai Lee Bennett is competing in the European Championships in Italy. Lee's goal is to attain a better position than his last attempt in 2001, fifth overall.

The Rising-Sun Kyokushin Karate Club's dojo is at the Samurai Centre, Savoy Buildings, Broad Street, Barry. For more information visit: www.rising-sun-kyokushin.co.uk, or call Lee on 07861699476.

LH

VALE SECONDS COME SO CLOSE

PAUL GILBERT was the star as Vale CC Second XI made a spirited attempt to chase down a daunting target when they visited Malpas last weekend.

The home side reached 273 for 2 and Vale fell 13 runs short on 260 for 6. Gilbert reached 71 not out, his highest score for the Vale and by far his finest innings.

The start was delayed as heavy overnight rain left the wicket very wet. With the match reduced to 45 overs, acting Vale skipper Carl Brooks sent the home side in on winning the toss.

After a solid but wicketless start by opening bowlers James Walsh and Luke James, the Malpas top two soon found the slow pitch and the very short square boundary on one side very much to their liking. Posting 115 for the first wicket, the aggressive Marcotis finally fell for 75 to Martin Scott's increasingly effective off spin.

Despite Gilbert picking up the other opener Simmons for 50 with his first ball, Watts and Mason took the home side to an imposing total.

Walsh and Scott were the pick of the bowlers, well supported in the difficult conditions by James and Tom Johnson.

Brooks and Walsh then gave Vale a solid start, putting on 42 before Walsh departed, bowled working across a full toss.

Scott then joined Brooks in a well-paced stand of 60 before the skipper was out for an airy and unconvincing. 30.

Gilbert and Scott put the visitors in potential sight of a shock victory until Scott went for 67.

In reality, the home side probably had the game under control, and Gilbert's valiant effort was ultimately unrewarded.

MF

Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' senior track and field championships

After the disappointment of the cancellation of the opening fixture in the Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan Schools summer track and field programme – because of the forecast heavy rain – it was a huge relief that the second fixture went ahead.

The senior championships for sixth form students was held on a dry, sunny, but not wind free afternoon at Cardiff International Sports Stadium.

In recent years, Mrs Andrea Williams has brought students from Barry College to compete at this fixture, with some very encouraging results.

Mrs Williams was back again this year, but now with students from the newly formed Cardiff and Vale College, the result of the merger between Barry and Coleg Glan Hafren – though all the students competing came from the Barry end.

The pressures of the external examination system have had a major impact on the number of pupils taking part both in these championships and in the middle competition for years 10 and 11 – especially in the girls' events – with the numbers taking part now significantly down on what they once were.

Of the four Vale winners in the boys' competitions, it was Bradley Cole who produced the best set of results. In 2011, the Barry College student had won the hammer and the javelin with distances of 48.20 metres and 50.11 metres respectively.

This year, competing for Cardiff and Vale College, both of his winning distances were over the 50 metres mark – 50.52 in the hammer and 50.26 in the javelin – as he retained both titles, and took fourth in the discus.

Matthew Edwards has been in sparkling form over the country this winter and he carried that through to the track, over 1,500 metres. Despite the presence of the experienced year-13 Tom Davis (Porthcawl) in the field, Matthew took the race by the scruff of its neck and front ran a hugely encouraging win in four minutes, 6.26 seconds, a time that he will improve as the summer progresses.

There will be huge interest when he makes his debut in the 2,000 metres steeplechase later in the season.

It was good to see James Glaves back in action in the 110 metres hurdles. Although the Bro Morgannwg year-13 will be disappointed with his winning time – over 20 seconds – we hope that it will encourage him to keep competing when he goes off to study at university.

The fourth Vale winner was Joe Green (St Cyres), who claimed a win in the triple jump with a respectable 12.39 metres (best) and took fourth place in the 100 metres final.

Of the other Vale performances, the most encouraging were set by Anax da Silva (Cardiff NS Vale College). The former Cathays High pupil was a member of the Welsh Schools track and field teams at the SIAB Schools under-17 international and the Sainsbury's UK School Games last summer.

Competing over 100 metres and for the sprint relay team, he ran strongly in both sprints, recording 22.48 seconds in the longer event and 11.59 seconds in the 100 metres final, but had to settle for second in both events to another year-12, Sam Gordon (Bishop of Llandaff).

Two Bro Morgannwg year-13 students, pupils who have been wonderful points' gainers in schools' track and field competition over the last five years, were making their final appearance at this event.

Tom Perry wracked up 38 points in finishing sixth in the shot, third in the discus and fourth in the hammer, while Tieran Scott totalled 35 points through his eighth place in the discus, fifth in the hammer and third in the javelin.

Thank goodness girls from Bryn Hafren and Cowbridge took part. Without them, the number of competitors would have been depressingly small.

There were eight victories by Vale girls with the top spot possibly being shared by year-12 students Fiona Bray (Cowbridge) in the 3,000 metres (11:44.07) and Bethany Hawkins (Bro Morgannwg) with a triple jump best of 9.09 metres.

Cowbridge gained five more victories – three on the track through Katie Wynn (800), Nikita John (1,500) and Georgina Jackson (100 hurdles), and a jumps double courtesy of Rebecca Thomas (high jump) and Imogen Harrison (long jump).

With first places earning 17 points in the team competitions, those six individual wins were worth 102 points – and there was another 17 from the relay victory.

After her recent operation to solve a knee problem, it was good to see year-13 Ellie Carter (Bryn Hafren) in action. Wisely, she restricted herself to throws events – and she won the shot – but the hope is, even with the pressure of her A-levels, that as the summer progresses she will be able to run and jump as well.

In the team competitions, there was disappointment for the Cowbridge boys, who had to settle for second behind Cardiff High, but joy for the girls, who claimed their section ahead of Bryn Hafren.

Following this competition, team managers Dai Williams (Glantaf) and Sarah Moore (Willows) will be sitting down shortly to select the senior teams to compete for Cardiff and the Vale district at the Aviva Welsh Schools Nationals, to be held at Penlan, Brecon, on Saturday July 7. It is likely that a large number of the Vale athletes who appear in these results may be invited to compete.

Results of Vale pupils:

Senior boys: 100: Ht 1(-1.2): 2 Anax da Silva (Card&Vale Coll) 11.67; 4 Adam Roscoe (Cow) 12.34; 5 Luke O'Sullivan (Barry Comp) 12.47; Ht 2(-0.2): 3 Joe Green (St Cyres) 12.11; Final(-1.1): 2 Anax da Silva (Card&Vale Coll) 11.59; 4 Joe Green (St Cyres) 12.17; 5 Adam Roscoe (Cow) 12.19.

200: 2 Anax da Silva (Card&Vale Coll) 22.48; 5 Jack Couch (St Cyres) 25.82; 6 Sam Roberts (Cow) 27.39.

800: 3 Jack Couch (St Cyres) 2:16.14; 6 Dillon Morgan (Cow) 2:25.73

1,500: 1 Matthew Edwards (Barry Comp) 4:06.26; 5 Tom Kamar (Cow) 6:08.61; 6 Lloyd Stock (Cow) 6:14.49

3,000: 3 James Freeman (Cow) 13:34.24

110H(2.0): 1 James Glaves (Bro M) 20.17

2,000Sc: 2 Adam Roscoe (Cow) 08:48.9; 3 Tom Hillman (Bro M) 09:07.5

4x100: 2 Cowbridge 53.69

HJ: 2 Harry Trotman (Cow) 1.60; 4 James Glaves (Bro M) 1.50

LJ: 5 Adam Roscoe (Cow) 4.97; 7 Luke O'Sullivan (Barry Comp) 4.86; 10 James Freeman (Cow) 4.38

TJ: 1 Joe Green (St Cyres) 12.39; 6 Harry Trotman (Cow) 10.1

SP: 5 Dillon Morgan (Cow) 9.65; 6 Tom Perry (Bro M) 9.44; 7 Gus Rees-McPherson (Cow) 9.43; 9 Sam Bowditch (Barry Comp) 8.28

DT: 3 Tom Perry (Bro M) 30.45; 4 Bradley Cole (Card&Vale Coll) 28.56; 8 Tieran Scott (Bro M) 22.14; 9 Dillon Morgan (Cow) 21.08; 11 Tom Cunnington (Cow) 18.47; 12 Sam Bowditch (Barry Comp) 16.06

HT: 1 Bradley Cole (Card&Vale Coll) 50.52; 4 Tom Perry (Bro M) 25.08; 5 Tieran Scott (Bro M) 20.80; 6 Gus Rees-McPherson (Cow) 19.10; 7 Lloyd Stock (Cow) 12.80

JT: 1 Bradley Cole (Card&Vale Coll) 50.26; 3 Tieran Scott (Bro M) 40.96; 4 Sam Roberts (Cow) 40.39; 5 Kieran Carpenter (Bro M) 33.52; 10 Tom Cunnington (Cow) 18.54

Team: 2 Cowbridge 228; 4th Bro Morgannwg 135; 5th Cardiff & Vale College 78; 7th St Cyres 56; 8th Barry Comprehensive 46.

Senior girls:

100(1.4): 2 Nikita John (Cow) 14.49

200(1.7): 3 Lauren McCarthy (St Cyres) 29.64; 4 Imogen Harrison (Cow) 30.39; 5 Sophie Lloyd (Cow) 30.67

800: 1 Katie Wynne (Cow) 3:28.70; 2 Sam Chambers (Bryn H) 3:35.20

1,500: 1 Nikita John (Cow) 5:37.30

3,000: 1 Fiona Bray (Cow) 11:44.07

100H(2.0): 1 Georgina Jackson (Cow) 21.31

400H: 2 Chloe Phillips (Card&Vale Coll) 82.81

4x100: 1 Cowbridge 60.27

HJ: 1 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 1.30

LJ: 1 Imogen Harrison (Cow) 3.90; 2 Lauren McCarthy (St Cyres) 3.80; 3 Romy Killick (Cow) 3.70; 6 Danielle Close (Bryn H) 2.79; 7 Lindsay Kerslake (Bryn H) 1.91

TJ: 1 Bethany Hawkins (Bro M) 9.09; 2 Rebecca Thomas (Cow) 8.58

SP: 1 Ellie Carter (Bryn H) 6.96; 2 Katie Wynne (Cow) 6.16; 3 Danielle Close (Bryn H) 5.90; 4 Georgina Jackson (Cow) 5.26

DT: 2 Nikita John (Cow) 18.92; 3 Katie Wynne (Cow) 15.31; 4 Ellie Carter (Bryn H) 12.25; 5 Danielle Close (Bryn H) 11.68

JT: 2 Coryn Sexton (Cow) 20.69; 3 Ellie Carter (Bryn H) 8.73; 4 Sophie Lloyd (Cow) 8.46

Team: 1 Cowbridge 279; 2nd Bryn Hafren 113; 5th St Cyres 29; 6th Bro Morgannwg 17; 7th= Cardiff & Vale College 15.

PETER MORRIS

Tom Perry contributed 38 points to the Bro Morgannwg team score with his performances in the throws.

James Glaves (Bro Morgannwg 42) battles it out with Joe Bishop in the 100m hurdles. ***Photographs by Ian Dixon.***

An encouraging early season win over 1500m for Matthew Edwards (Barry Comprehensive).

Second place on her debut over 400m hurdles for Chloe Phillips (Cardiff and Vale College).

Second place in the 100m and 200m on his senior debut for Anax da Silva.

New Barry football team to honour memory of lost friend

BY LEIGH GRUFFYDD SANDERS

WITH an annual football tournament in memory of a Barry man set to take place this Saturday (May 26), the family have received a further boost by the news that a football team has been set up to carry on the memory of their son.

David 'Dinxsy' Coombs tragically died in 2003 aged just 19. Since then, parents Kim and Paul Coombs have staged an annual football tournament in his honour that has raised money for charity.

Mum Kim told The GEM: "David was a big football fan and we wanted to do something to keep him alive.

"The tournament gets bigger every year. Last year we had 26 teams and we do a fundraising thing on the side. Usually we raise about £500 but obviously we'd like that to be more.

"There will be raffles, refreshments and each player pays £1 to play. This year we will be giving the money to Cerebrus and Great Ormond Street.

"The winners and runners up get medals and the winners get a 'David's Boot' trophy, a golden left boot, as David was left handed and left footed."

The Coombs family with last year s finalists.

Friends and family turn out every year to honour David Dinxsy Coombs.

To keep the memory of David going further, and raise extra funds for charity, friends of the Barry boy have set up a football team using his initials – DPC United – to play in the Lazarou Leagues from next season. This weekend's tournament will be their first outing together.

Matthew Davie, a friend of David's and one of the team's founding members, told The GEM: "We were a close bunch of mates. I met David in secondary school and moved to the area he was from and it went from there.

"There was a group of about 10 of us that were really close and used to do everything together.

"It will be an absolute honour for everyone in the squad to wear the shirt, even people who didn't know David know how much it means to us and are extremely proud to be part of such a great cause.

"We are happy to let his parents get involved as much as they want, everything we do for the club will be run past them first."

And get involved they will, as Kim explains: "We are chuffed, over the moon, that his friends still talk about him as if he is still part of the crowd.

"He was a lovely kid and is still well thought of. We will be involved; I am going to be the treasurer."

The tournament is taking place at Buttrills Field, Barry, with registration at 10am (kick-off at 11am). Teams are seven-a-side, can be male, female or mixed, and competitors must be over 16 years old.

For more information, or to register interest, telephone Kim on 07973 565150.

Successful week for Cowbridge Bowling Club

ON Monday May 14, 15 lady members of Cowbridge Bowling Club visited Llandrinod Wells for the Patron's Day of the Welsh Women's Bowling Association, who celebrate their 80th anniversary this year.

The greens are very good at Llandrinod, the home of Welsh bowling, and it was great to see matches on all 21 rinks.

The ladies all enjoyed their games, and it was good to play bowls and meet with ladies from clubs all over Wales.

Later, they enjoyed high tea at the Metropole Hotel, where they were entertained by the Rhayader Male Voice Choir. A very pleasant day, which was enjoyed by everyone.

On Tuesday it was back to the club games, with a match in the CCS at home to Bridgend Municipal, and a good 51-34 win.

Lynda Wilson, Mary Dowdle, Pat Davey and skip Shirley Wilkinson won 15-12; Kay Edwards, Diane Lloyd, Sue Flower and skip Pat Holdsworth won 19-9; and the rink of Glenys Davies, Carol Davies, Joan Bradley and skip Joy Woolford won 17-13.

In their league match, away to Barry Central, they had another good win, this time 51-30.

Diane Purnell, Margaret Cooper, Pat Holdsworth and skip Pat Davey won 16-8. Lynda Wilson, Judy Springett, Kay Edwards and skip Joan Bradley won well, 24-6. The only losing rink was skip Sue Flowers' – by 11-16.

In a good week for matches, the men played both their games, a Munro Cup match and a Carruthers Shield match.

In the Munro Cup, at home to Barry Central, sadly Central could only bring 12 players, a sign of the times for a lot of clubs.

Cowbridge won on all four rinks for a total of 91-46.

The best rink was on skip Steve Dickins' rink, by 30-10, the other members being Mansel Davey, Gerry Lloyd and Guy Morton.

On Ron Frayling's rink of Norman Wilkinson, Mick Davey and Ron Woodford, they won 24-7. Byron Richards' rink won 25-9 with help from Terry Dinsworth, Clive Pritchard and Len Taylor.

The only close game was on Dennis Snellings' rink; Eric Sewell, Bryan Hole and Colin Wilson combining for a 12-10 win.

In the Carruthers Shield, away to Millwood, the men lost 63-90, only winning on one rink, that of skip Byron Richards, by 19-15. In a good game, Byron's other players were John Trott, Len Taylor and David Jones.

The other close game was the rink of Jim Hewlett, David Williams, Colin Wilson and skip Steve Dickens, who were all square at 17-all going in to the last end, but dropped a three to lose 17-20.

The other two both lost, Dennis Snelling's rink 12-31 and Roger Barwick's rink 15-24.

NJW

Bro Morgannwg's championship win

YSGOL Bro Morgannwg's year-9 team won the Cardiff and Vale Schools Football Cup 4-3 in the final against Whitchurch High School. Bro Morgannwg's goals were scored by Dafydd Smith (three) and Tom Edwards.

Cowbridge under-14s end season on a high

COWBRIDGE under-14s ended the season finishing fourth in a very competitive league.

The Cowbridge Town football presentation day saw the whole squad receive trophy awards in recognition of their tremendous efforts over the season.

The team player's player award vote was won by captain Ben Jones, who in addition to being an influential player on the pitch took the captain's role on and inspired all around him.

The award for manager's player went to striker Louis Phillips for his commitment on the pitch and most importantly his concentration, and his hard working attitude in training.

The clubman of the year award went to Seb Chan for his enthusiasm for training, and for supporting the team even if he doesn't always get to play.

Well done to all squad members, you were a credit to yourselves and to Cowbridge FC in all aspects throughout the season.

We also would like to congratulate Porthkerry Panthers, who really deserved to take this year's title.

Busy times for gymnasts

THE end of April saw children at Vale Gymnastics undertaking their latest set of assessments for the VG Award Scheme, which is designed to help children improve their gymnastics skills and gain recognition for doing so.

Children aged four to 11 worked through a list of challenging targets to try and achieve their bronze, silver and gold awards.

The coaches at the club were extremely impressed with all the children, who are progressing at a tremendous rate, and this latest set of assessments has seen the highest percentage of gymnasts achieving their bronze awards.

A number of talented children have also received their silver awards and it looks very likely that the club will be giving out gold awards at the next assessment week in June.

The award scheme has been running since last summer and already more than 100 Vale children have received recognition for their hard work and impressive gymnastic ability – well done to everyone!

Meanwhile, the competition squads are working very hard in preparation for their performance at the National Eisteddfod in August, followed by the competition circuit next year.

Everyone at the club would like to wish them the best of luck!

WOLVES SHOW THEIR SKILLS

FIVE boys from Dinas Powys Wolves under-9s represented Mike Fowler's elite squad recently against Hereford FC academy, with coach Lee Saunders.

The boys showed off their skills at Edgar Street, and it was a very exciting evening for the players, who have never played on a professional ground against strong opposition before.

Each child really enjoyed themselves and they are looking forward to doing it all again soon.

LS

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

Important information for existing and new council tenants

From April 2013 Housing Benefit Rules are changing for 'working age' tenants who live in Council and Housing Association properties. Please note, if you are of pension age this will not affect you.

Deductions will be made from Housing Benefit claim where a claimant is living in a property that is classed as too large for them. There will be a 14% deduction for one extra bedroom and a 25% deduction for two or more bedrooms.

To calculate room needs for a client, one bedroom is allowed for each of the following:

- every adult couple;
- any other adult aged over 16;
- any two children of the same sex up to age 16;
- any two children regardless of sex aged under 10; or
- any other child.

Foster children are not included in the calculation.

Examples

A single person (of working age) living in a two-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply.

A couple (of working age) living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be one bedroom, so a 25% deduction from their Housing Benefit would apply

A single parent or couple with a son aged 8 and a daughter aged 6, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be two bedrooms, so there would be a 14% deduction from their Housing Benefit

A single parent or couple with two daughters, aged 12 and 6, and a son aged 4, living in a three-bedroom property

The assessment of room need would be three bedrooms, so no deduction would apply.

Please be aware of the above when making bids for properties in this advert as this may affect how much rent you pay in your property.

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For more information, contact the Rhonnda Cynon Taff Affordable Housing Officer on 01443 425 388.

newydd

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 30 May 2012

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or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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- Central heating
- Scheme Manager
- Alarm

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Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
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- Upstairs
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Community alarm

Rent £97.45 per week including sewerage and water charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1086368
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
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- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and parking

Rent £82.04 per week including service charge

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- Parking

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ST GOVANS CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 225040
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Upstairs
- Double glazing
- Central heating
- Community alarm

Rent £80.95 per week including sewerage and water charges

TY GWENFO, BARRY

H4U Reference 1028779
Suit for a single person over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
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- Double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Communal entrance
- Parking

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You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.
When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.
All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.
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See our extra advert for full details about this important change.

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Gladstone Road, Barry - £235,000
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3 Esgid Mair, Pencoedtre Village, Barry - £229,950
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Three bedroom mid link property • Cul-de-sac location • Two reception rooms • Fitted kitchen with built-in cooker • Downstairs wc, first floor bathroom and separate shower room • Generous landscaped garden, mainly laid to lawn • Patio area, vegetable garden and greenhouse.

Ty Gambig, Clos yr Wylan, Nells Point, Barry Island - OIRO £159,950 - no chain
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Purdey Close, Barry - £155,950
Set in cul-de-sac location • Three bedroom end link property • Lounge • Dining room with patio doors opening on to garden patio • Kitchen with built in cooker • Modern white bathroom • Enclosed garden • Parking space and garage

Meadowvale, Barry Offers in the region of £155,000
Modern three bedroom detached property • Lounge/Dining room • Modern fitted kitchen • Conservatory • Family bathroom and cloakroom • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway for three vehicles• Garage • Viewing recommended

Greenacres, Barry - £149,950
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Rhodfa Sweldon, The Waterfront, Barry - £139,950
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Court Road, Barry - £139,000
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Murlande Way, Rhoose Village - £129,995
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Amherst Crescent, Barry Island Now £125,000 - No Chain
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Fonmon Park Road, Rhoose - £109,950
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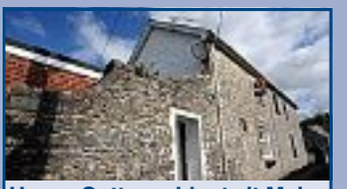

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
LICENSING ACT 2003
To whom it may concern.

I, **ALI HUSSAINI**, do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a **Premises Licence** at **13 Vere Street, Barry CF63 2HX** known as **Romeo Pizza.**

The application is for permission to supply alcohol from 4pm-12am on Monday to Saturday, and 4pm-11pm on Sunday.

Any person wishing to make representations in respect of this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.
Representations received after this date will not be considered.
A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.
It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application - the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.
Mr Ali Hussaini
21st May, 2012.

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Acknowledgements

Keith Morgan, Sian & Jason Yates
THANK YOU ALL
Following the funeral of
Susan Morgan (Sue)
we would like to thank so many for their support over the past few weeks and particularly on the 15th May, 2012.

Everyone who sent messages of support, cards, flowers, letters and visited the house have really helped us at this very difficult and sad time; people have been great.

Rev David Boult and Sam Smith were marvellous at Holy Cross Church, while Natalie and the staff at Quarter Penny Restaurant provided refreshments of the highest quality on the day.

Family Notices

OSTERBERG

Peacefully, at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (through lack of breath) on Friday, May 18, 2012 Ernest Raymond Osterberg (Ray), aged 95 years, beloved husband of the late Doreen Young, dearly loved dad of Karen, a dear father-in-law of Ross and loving grandad to Charley.

Service to be held in Aberdeen. Donations if desired for Grampian Wildlife Rehabilitation Trust, C/O G Burgess & Son, Funeral Directors, Station Road, Ellon, AB41 9AR, 01358 720259

MEREDITH
Michael

Leo, Giles and Sarah would like to thank everyone for the affection and support you have shown since the death of our beloved Michael.

The love and regard in which he was held has been overwhelming and has given us strength during this sad time.

Birthdays

Pat Jamieson
Hope you had a lovely birthday, all our love, your friends and family
x x x

Bill Robinson

Happy 80th Birthday
All our love from Diana, Mandy, Gaynor, Nathan, Tony and Tim. xxx

Happy 21st Birthday

Peter Fordham
on May 19
Love from all your family. XXX

PARSONS *(née James)*
Glenys

The family of Glenys Parsons of Southey Street, Barry, sadly announce her peaceful passing on Sunday, 20th May at Llandough Hospital. Funeral Service 11am on Friday, 1st June at AG Adams, Barry.

UNDERWOOD
Vivian Charles 'Charlie'
19-11-20 - 19-5-12

Sadly, we have to announce the death of our father, who passed away on May 19, 2012 at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry. Formerly of Barry and Llantwit Major.

A loving husband to the late Rona, loving father to Ann, Gail and Susan. Wonderful father-in-law, a devoted grandfather and great grandfather.

Although our father was only in the nursing home for a few days, we would like to thank Rachel, Ann and all the staff for the dignity, respect and wonderful care they gave.

Resting at WA Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major, until the service at the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major on Wednesday May 30 at 11am, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery.

Family flowers only please, if wished donations for Velindre Hospital (cheques only, please) may be sent or given to the funeral director.

SCOUSE
Norman

Peacefully on the 17th May 2012, Norman of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of the late Joan and father of Elizabeth. Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in Coychurch Crematorium on Monday 28th May at 2.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Llantwit Major Bowls Club c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please)

WILLIAMS
Islwyn George

Glenys and family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all those who have been there for us during what has been a very sad and difficult time.

The support and care of all the medical and nursing staff, particularly those from the Cowbridge Health Centre, have been both welcomed and appreciated by us all, as have the countless offers and demonstrations of help and support from our many friends and neighbours. It is a comfort to know that we live among such kind and generous people.

Like the memory of our dearly departed husband and father, Islwyn, your efforts will never be forgotten.

SYGROVE
Stephen (Stevie)

Stephen (Stevie), aged two years and two months, died unexpectedly in his sleep, at home in Aberthin, Cowbridge on 10th May. We have been fortunate to have had Stephen in our lives for the past 15 months. He has brought us Joy, sunshine and laughter, every single day. We have been truly Blessed for the happiness he brought us. Mark, Sandra and Stevie's sister Amy, send thanks to friends and neighbours, all at Holy Cross Church, the Police, Paramedics and especially to everyone at Pathway Care for their support and encouragement at this very sad time.

The funeral will be held at St. Pauls Church, Grangetown, Cardiff on Tuesday May 29th at 10.15am followed by internment at Thornhill cemetery.

Stephen will be missed by us all, always.

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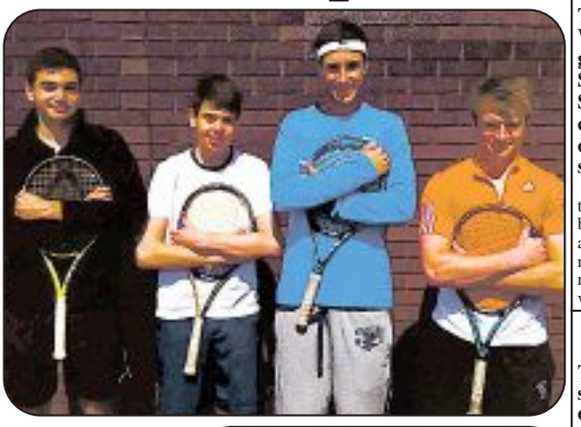
COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

Practice makes perfect



RIGHT: PICTURED: (left to right) John Humphreys, David Humphreys, Tom Kamal and Alex Kurobasa.

Athletics

MARC HERBERT handed the batton to Daniel Evans during a recent year-10 Athletics practice (see picture below right).

The year-10 team have been preparing for the upcoming knockout cup competition that is scheduled for the middle of June. The school is running a number of selection trials during the lunch hour in the build up to the competition.

Rugby

MANY congratulations to Gus Rees-McPherson on gaining his under-18s Welsh Schools rugby cap.

Gus has had an excellent season with the school side and with Cardiff Blues under-18s. As a result of some outstanding performances, Gus was selected for the Welsh under-18s tour to Spain in March.

During the tournament, he represented his country against Italy, England and France. After impressing selectors throughout the tournament, Gus has also signed a contract to join the Cardiff Blues academy of elite performers.

After narrowly missing out on selection to the Welsh under-16s squad two years ago, Gus has set a fantastic example to all of our pupils that hard work and dedication will always reward you with the targets that you set yourself. Well done, Gus!

Skiing

COWBRIDGE girls and boys ski team competed in the British Schools Indoor Snow Championships at the Chill Factore in Manchester recently.

It was Emily Hopkins, Sarah Williams and Amy Taylor's last race for Cowbridge, as they will all be moving on to university next year.

In Emily's last race, she performed really well on the surface she does not prefer. Emily posted excellent times on her first and second run of 15.45 to come fifth overall. Sarah Williams also posted two good times of 17.16 and 18.02 to come 16th overall.

Amy Taylor raced well for her first time on this surface, posting 20.96 and 21.13 to come 33rd out of 41. Hannah Taylor also competed in the girl's race. However, in the first race, Hannah missed one of the posts, and she hiked back up but then straddled the post so she was disqualified.

In the second run, Hannah missed the last post to get disqualified, although she did ski well through the race.

The girls came sixth overall out of 12 teams, a really great effort by all the girls. There was also a parallel slalom race where two teams raced against each other in a relay. Cowbridge faced Abbots Hill B Team in the first round and won, taking the girls into the quarter finals against Clitheroe Royal Grammar School.

Unfortunately, Cowbridge lost after a great start from Emily Hopkins saw Amy Taylor keep the lead.

Hannah had a ski pop off and tried to complete the course on one ski, only for Clitheroe to then overtake and win. Abbey Gate went on to win the girls race.

In the boy's race, Ben Thomas led the boys team home, posting two good times of 17.05 and 17.70 coming 14th overall. Nicky Griffiths was second for the Cowbridge team, posting 17.68 and 17.65 coming 17th overall.

Harry Hopkins then posted 19.01 and 18.05 to come 19th overall. Ben Jones completed the team, posting 19.52 and 18.66, for 25th out of 37. The boys' team came fifth out of 11 teams.

In the parallel slalom, the boys competed against Abbey Gate College in the first round, winning comfortably. In the quarter final, Cowbridge faced Ribblesdale and again won by a near margin.

Cowbridge then faced Reeds B team. Reeds proved too good for Cowbridge, although Ben Thomas started well, finishing neck and neck. Harry Hopkins took the lead, Ben Jones was neck and neck and Nicky Griffiths was overtaken by the Reeds competitor.

Reeds A v Reeds B were in the final. Reeds A team won.

A great weekend of skiing by the competitors. Well done.

RIGHT: Girls A team, Manchester

Athletics practice.

ABOVE: Gus Rees-McPherson

Tennis

The Senior Boys tennis team lost last week against Backwell School in Bristol in the semi finals of Wales and West England National Championships.

Captain Tom Kamal fought hard but lost against the top seed from Backwell 6-4, 6-1. With the Humphreys brothers David and Jonathan gaining similar results, fourth seed Alex Kurobasa had a must win game.

Alex was struggling with sore legs from a rugby fixture the previous night and was convincingly beaten. Backwell ran out convincing winners 6-0 and will do well in the national championships at Queenswood in July. Credit must go to Tom and the team for reaching the semi final stages yet again.

Once again, Cowbridge went the furthest of any Welsh school in this competition. Well done, boys!

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Under strength Cowbridge in narrow loss in Swansea

THE Cowbridge West Wales cricket team finally got their season started last Saturday at Swansea Civil Service after a number of cancelled games in the opening weeks of the season.

Acting captain Jon Brazier won the toss and asked Civil Service to bat. Opening bowlers Tim Moss and Ryan Thomas bowled economically without much luck as a number of aerial shots landed in vacant areas of the field.

A number of young bowlers were given chances to show what they could do. They again had little luck, but gained valuable experience.

Civil Service were past the 100-run mark before Jack Griffiths tempted the opposition skipper to loft the ball to his opposite number who took the catch high above his head.

When the opening bowlers came back on, suddenly the wickets began to tumble. Tim Moss, at one point on a hat-trick, took 4-45, and Ryan Thomas took 2-31.

After their allotted 45 overs, Cowbridge were set a total of 177 to chase and did not get off to a great start, losing the skipper in the third over.

From then on, Tim Moss and Ryan Taylor had a great partnership with Ryan scoring 28 and Tim an impressive 63.

Another useful contribution in the lower order was from Waqar Saadet (20) that saw Cowbridge to a respectable 135 all out, not a bad effort for an under strength team against good opposition.

This week sees the first home game on the School Field against Dafen

Point-to-point impresses

THRILLS and spills were the order of the day at the popular Lower Machen course where a total of 91 horses faced the starter.

Both the restricted and the young horse maiden were divided on the field and Ffos Las Racecourse supremo Dai Walters, who enjoys his point-to-pointing, and who lives not a stone's throw from the course, cannot have failed to have been impressed with the large number of entries.

Also impressed with the large number of horses taking part was evergreen Welsh trainer Dai Burchell.

Ogmore's Nick Williams, younger brother of sidelined National Hunt jockey Christian, took the mixed open race on Paul Miles's remarkable *Findlay's Find,* who reversed the Lady Dudley Cup placings with David Llewellyn's *Rosies Peacock*.

Nick had the six-year-old chestnut gelding, who had been runner-up in his three previous starts, in a prominent position throughout and after taking a clear lead four fences from home went on to win by eight lengths from the even-money favourite ridden by John Mathias.

Nick later went on to win the first division of the young horse maiden on Stephen Parkhouse's *A Bit Of Class* who, after jumping the last in front, held on by a neck from David Llewellyn's *Karazaaf* (John Mathias).

The luckiest winner of the day was surely Emlyn Parry's *Leprechaun's Gold* (Josh Harris) which came from a long way behind in the members' race to beat the tiring *Early Matinee* (Alan Johns) after the 1-3 favourite *Carrick Oscar* (Connor Flint), who had tried to make all, fell two fences from the finish.

Leprechaun's Gold, an eight-year-old chestnut gelding, which was winning for the first time in 53 outings, was placed on the flat when trained by Bernard Llewellyn who incidentally was just as delighted as the winning owner with the horse's success.

Ex-National Hunt performer *Dunbrody House,* believed to be a first time winner for owner/trainer Karen Bowen (she was absent having taken her children pony racing) was a six lengths winner of the confined race under Darach Skelly.

The runner-up *Oakfield Legend* (Connor Flint) had tried to make all the running but *Dunbrody House* ran on well in the closing stages and clocked the same time- six minutes twenty-four seconds- as *Findlay's Find* would take forty minutes or so later.

In the second division of the young horse maiden, Paul Tolman's *AllStar Night* (Alan Johns) benefitted from the falls of *Hazarose* and *In The West,* who both fell independently of each other when challenging for the lead three fences from home.

Robbie Henderson paying a first visit to a Welsh point-to-point came away with mixed feelings after landing the first division of the restricted on Stuart Jarrett's five-year-old chestnut *Before The War* which had four lengths to spare over the favourite *Billy Cuckoo* (Nick Williams) as someone in the jockeys' tent had apparently lifted his saddle pads.

The second division also went to a five-year-old when Samantha Butler's *Moscow Me* (John Mathias) came home six lengths clear of *Gouranga Society* whose rider Paul Sheard did remarkably well to say in the saddle after almost being unshipped when leading the field at the 10th fence.

Backers of favourites had to wait until the eighth and last race when Glyn Llewellyn's *Railway Diva*, a 4-5 chance, ran out a six lengths winner of the aged horse maiden under Mathew Barber. *Railway Diva,* who is trained by former Welsh National Hunt jockey Dai Tegg, was a first winner for Mr Llewellyn and is the first horse he has ever owned.

BRIAN LEE

NFU golf day raises funds

A fundraising charity golf day organised by local NFU Mutual Insurance group secretaries David Harris and Julian Kelly raised just over £4,500 in aid of the Bridgend & District branch of the Alzheimer's society.

Played at the Grove Golf Club near Porthcawl, the event attracted 136 entries all competing for the quality prizes courtesy of many local sponsors.

Results: winners of the team event with 116 stableford points representing PCL Surveyors were Martin Jones, Howard Phillips, Jon Burrows and Steve Shepphard.

Runners-up with 111 points were Boobyer's Boys were Neil Boobyer. Carl Yardley, Randall Edward and Dean Lewis.

In third place with 108 points (the Celtic Park legends) were Rhydian Harris, Simon Sweeney, Tom Scott and Luke Tuckfield.

In fourth place with 103 points were Principality Plastics represented by Paul Davies, David Carey, Richard Jeremy and Darnell Hamonda.

Best endeavour prize was awarded to NFU Cymru Wales with 52 points represented by Peter Howells, Huw Thomas, Dylan Morgan and Elwyn Gwilym.

Nearest the pin on a par 3, sponsored by The Red Fox, Penllyne, was Barrie Owen (hole 4).

Hole 7 (sponsored By The Grove Golf Club), was Barrie Melhuish

Hole 12 (sponsored by Coed Yr Mwstwr), was Dan Jarvis

Hole 18 (sponsored by Huddarts Restaurant, Cowbridge), Martin Jones

Longest Drive Ladies sponsored by Mr Glyn Watts-Jones – Mrs Beryl Vaughan

Longest Drive Men sponsored by Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant – Mr Neil Boobyer

Ladies individual winner with 29 points was Miss Danielle Blackman; runner up Mrs Caroline Kelly with 25 points

Men's individual winner with 41 points Mr Dean Lewis; runner up with 37 points Mr John Burrows Correctly guessing the number of lost balls sponsored by Mr Islwyn Rees Mr Jon Lot.

The organisers are grateful to all the sponsors and entrants for supporting this event.

T McC

John Painter's Diamond Jubilee

IT'S hard to believe that 2012 is the Diamond Jubilee; not only for our Queen, but also John Painter's association with Miskin Manor Cricket Club.

My father fondly remembers the day he sneaked off school to watch Glamorgan play at Miskin. There started a relationship that has lasted 60 years.

I sometimes feel that without Miskin there would be no John Painter and vice versa. The man lives for the club and all that it represents.

Everyone knows what he does without me having to compile a long list. His 'hands on' work, his behind the scenes arrangements, like getting the boards done; most recently securing three flag poles from Lanelay Hall, his umpiring, assistance with teas, and, of course, his love of playing cricket.

In 2011, dad was awarded the 'Special Lifetime Achievement Award' from RCT County Borough Council. This was an incredibly proud moment for him and meant so much to me too.

He is proud of every trophy and award he has received from the club; and his life membership awarded in 1984 is still displayed proudly in his home.

To celebrate dad's 'Jubilee', we are having a John Painter XI v Keith Davies XI cricket match on Sunday June 10. We are hoping this will be well supported to make money for the club.

I am sure that dad will continue his love for the club forever, and it would be nice in his 60th year if we could achieve promotion or do well in the Village Cup.

Donna Holder

UNDER-13 TEAM SEEKS PLAYERS

CADOXTON Imps Football Club in Barry is searching for new players for next season.

Any footballer under 13 years of age before September 1, 2012, and who is at present a year-7 pupil, should come to a training session, Wednesday evenings from 6pm–7.30pm at Pencoedtre Field. Other age groups are available.

For more information, telephone Arthur on 07702 556340.

Girls team looking for more players

THE Vale Ladies and Girls Football Club has recently launched to provide football opportunities for girls to enjoy playing the sport.

The club offers girls football for ages 7-16, as well as offering the opportunity for over-16s to join a new ladies team – subject to interest.

New players are always welcome to come and try girls football at weekly training sessions in Barry.

For more information, contact 07772 022435, email: info@valegirlsfc.co.uk or visit the website: www.valegirlsfc.co.uk

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03 RENAULT Clio. Met silver, 3-dr, MoT til May 13, 1 former owner, s/r, digital a/c & c/c £2,295
03 FORD KA 56,000 miles, long tax & MoT ..£1,995
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GEM sport

NEW HORIZONS AT LOCAL TENNIS CLUB

THESE are dynamic times for tennis at Cowbridge Tennis Club.

The newly repainted courts reflect the growing membership and ambitious plans of the new committee, while the men's section has flourished recently.

The first team has climbed six divisions in four years and the recently assembled second 'feeder' team has had successive promotions.

A major initiative to dramatically lift the competitive standard of tennis has seen Cowbridge TC enter a men's side into the AEGON team tennis competition. Each Aegon team comprises four players – each playing a singles and a doubles.

Although initially fixtures are arranged across south Wales, successful teams can find themselves promoted eventually into the tough UK leagues !

Cowbridge's first fixture in the Aegon League was away to the long established Penarth LTC.

A very strong Cowbridge four who have won the Welsh League premier 1 title with other clubs won the match 6-0.

In the singles, club champion and Wales' vets captain Mike Harpin led the way with a 6-3 6-0 win, followed by Andy Dunn (6-2, 6-3) Simon Lake (6-1, 6-0) and Chris Lewis (6-1, 6-1).

In the second round and suitably warmed-up, Harpin/Dunn won their doubles 6-3 6-2 and Lake/Anthony James won 6-0 6-0.

Newcomers Andy Dunn and Chris Lewis need to be congratulated for the quality of their Aegon debuts which augers well for the future.

The Aegon fixture was played last weekend away to powerful near neighbours Dinas Powys LTC. Once again the power and experience of 'singles' tennis at Cowbridge prevailed in the first round: Mike Harpin 1-6 0-6 : Dave Cunningham 0-6 1-6; Ian Duggan 3-6 2-6; Simon Lake 0-6 2-6.

The second round of 'doubles' tennis saw very spirited defence from the Dinas Powys team. Eventually, Cowbridge won both close encounters.

Harpin and Cunningham 6-7 3-6; Duggan and Lake 6-4 0-6 0-1, the final match score being 6-0 to Cowbridge.

A special mention goes again to the quality 'singles' performances of all our Aegon squad over the last two matches.

In order to promote the 'singles' tennis game – so popular on our television screens – Cowbridge TC chairman, Henry Mehta, is determined to establish a network of competitive singles leagues.

If you are interested, details are in the clubhouse or on-line at cowbridgetennis.webs.com/ – all are welcome!

ID

GOOD WEEK FOR TENNIS!

A week that started with the Men's Aegon team winning away to Dinas Powys just got better and better with the men's second team continuing the theme with a thumping 5-1 win over Penarth Windsor fourths.

The first round started with comfortable wins for Henry Mehta and Paul Wilby who dispatched the opposition pair 6-1, 6-0, while Hugh Wallace and Warren Davies were having a similar experience winning 6-0, 6-3.

The third pair of John Edwards and Junior Joe Davies had a more difficult time, and after a marathon tussle took the opposition second pair to a championship tie break, eventually succumbing to a narrow defeat. The second round saw Henry once again in magnificent form but the pair were this time stretched to a third set tie break which saw them triumphing 10-7.

Meanwhile, Hugh and Warren overcame stubborn resistance to win their game and John and Joe got their success after another tie break. After this 5-1 win Cowbridge have a 100 per cent record which takes them to second place in the Courtshall Summer League with a game in hand over Penarth Windsor 4.

Feeling a little tired but buoyed by their win on the previous day, and some fresh legs in the form of Paul Arnold and two juniors, Sean Boga-Lake and Harry Harpin, the men's' second team travelled to Penarth Windsor, this time to play their 5th team.

Once more Cowbridge triumphed 5-1. Results in the first round started with John and Paul Arnold losing their match after a tie break. Paul Wilby and Sean after a shaky start, eventually turned their game around after also going to a third set tie break. Henry and Harry meanwhile sailed through 6-1, 6-0.

In the second round, Cowbridge recorded a perfect three out of three. John and Paul Arnold having an easier time of it this round winning 6-1, 6-0, Paul Wilby and Sean also had an easier round winning 6-0, 6-0. Meanwhile Henry and Harry had to dig deep after going down 6-3 to come back and win the next set 5-7 and the third set tie break 10-4.

On Saturday, the men's first team travelled to Whitchurch intent on reversing the disappointment of a first match of the season loss, however, the day did not start well with the late withdrawal due to illness of star player Anthony James.

Not one to let the side down, in stepped the experienced and highly respected Allan Duggan. The match turned out to be a one-sided affair with Cowbridge showing the class of their players by cruising to a convincing 6-0 win.

The success of the week was not confined to just the men's team with the ladies seconds having an epic match against Penarth Windsor ladies. The match commenced at 6pm and the last pair walked off court after a mammoth four hours at 10pm - phew!

The first round saw a tight game between the first pairings of Captain Jayne Wilby and Jenny Lord against their Penarth counterparts. The match was eventually concluded by a third set championship tiebreak favouring Penarth.

By contrast, the second pairing of Julie Couzens and Kathy Harwood-Morgan, made short work of their opposition dispatching them 6-2, 6-2. Third pairing Pat Thomas and Margaret Price meanwhile went down 3-6, 5-7. This left Cowbridge trailing one match to two after the first round. The second round commenced with a win for Pat and Margaret making it 2-2 events all.

Julie and Kathy suffered a reversal of their first round performance losing their game and this meant the team were 2-3 down. The pressure now was on Jayne and Jenny for a win. The pair soon found themselves once again engaged in a long game with extended rallies, this time the pair winning their third set tie break; 3-3 and the match tied.

The week ended with the ladies first team playing at home to Penarth Windsor. Team captain Caroline Summer was delighted with the efforts of her team because, despite struggling to put out a full side due to unavailability, they managed a hard earned draw.

Because only two pairs could be mustered by Cowbridge, and therefore starting with a two event deficit, the team of Louise Hailstone and Gill Ridout and Nonie Hempson and Karen James managed to win three of the four events played. Only a narrow defeat in a third set tie break for Nonie and Karen prevented the girls from an unlikely win, a full side would most certainly have meant that they would have taken all the points.

PW

Cricketers win to top table

BRITON Ferry Steel Cricket Club was the venue for Cowbridge first XI's close encounter, but there was no mystery about the final result.

Cowbridge won a hard-fought battle by 10 runs and went to the top of the Second Division table.

The victory was based on excellent teamwork with bat and ball in an intriguing contest that ebbed and flowed.

Cowbridge batted first and scored 191 for 7 in 50 overs and the home side fell short of the target set by 11 runs.

Having been relegated last season and starting poorly this year, the home side needed a determined effort to get as many points as possible from this match. But a victory was the aim as it was a strong side that played against Cowbridge.

Tom Merilaht won the toss and decided that Cowbridge would bat.

They went on to build a competitive total of 191 for seven off 50 overs, and in reply Briton Ferry could manage just 181 all out in 47.4 overs.

Young Sam Wood was the star of Cowbridge's batting, occupying the crease for almost the entire innings and scoring 81 invaluable runs. How he has developed in the last few seasons! He was the last man out having batted for 45 overs and then remarkably kept wicket efficiently for the visitor's innings.

Tom Merilaht (25), Amin Ramly (26) and Chris Willey (28 no) ably supported Sam. It is extremely satisfying for the skipper that now any one of his top six batsmen is capable of doing what Sam did and hold the innings together if the others should fail.

In Amin's innings there was an enormous six over mid-on that just kept going and going, and which, according to the locals, was the largest they had ever seen on the ground.

Another highlight was a gem of an innings from Chris Willey. A sensible 28 not out in the final overs as he just stroked the ball either side of the wicket to take quick singles when the fielders were spread to prevent boundaries.

With Sam, towards the end of the innings and finally with Andy Finucane (7 no), Chris frustrated the opposition while adding runs to the Cowbridge total.

Tom Warner and Ryan Taylor opened the bowling and had some early success. The opening batsmen were back in the pavilion by the eighth over with the score on 16, both having taken a wicket.

Then a recovery was underway and the next wicket did not fall until the 25th over with the score on 84. However, when the score was 137 for 3 with the batsmen flourishing, Tom Merilaht had Evans (63) trapped lbw.

It was a controversial decision, jeered by the spectators and greeted with disbelief by the batsman as he threw his bat away. Relief and joy was clearly written on the faces of the Cowbridge players as they saw the back of Evans as he trudged unwillingly from the field of play.

It was certainly a turning point in the match, as the remaining batsmen seemed energised by the events and the recovery continued to the 43rd over when the home side had scored 156 for 5 wickets and the tension was rising. Thirty-six to win off 7 overs was a definite possibility on a relatively compact ground.

The situation demanded the recall of the opening bowlers to the attack for the final overs. The skipper obliged, the bowlers did what was required and Cowbridge ran out winners. Tom Warner (4-45) and Ryan Taylor (3-39) ended the match in style capturing the remaining five wickets between them in the last five overs – much to the relief of their teammates and the Cowbridge spectators. The jeering home supporters had disappeared to the bar.

Craig Evans (63), Lee Williams (28) and Jason Hughes (20) were the batsmen who scored most of the runs for the home side.

In the end a result for superb teamwork and 27 points for the First XI.

This Saturday The First XI is at home to newly promoted Llandysul; the Second XI travels west. All supporters are welcome at The Athletic Ground.

DL

New youth team

COWBRIDGE Town AFC are starting a new youth side for the 2012/13 season.

We are looking for players to strengthen the squad and we'll be holding an open day/training session end June/beginning July - date to be confirmed.

Match games will be played on Sunday afternoons and training held one evening per week.

Anyone aged 16 - 19 years old who is interested in playing football for the youth side should contact Viv Blick 07966 570937 or vivianblick@btinternet.com.

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